



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

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Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

FREE

Court Watching:

Preliminary exam on accused embezzler to continue April 8

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

Preliminary exams were set for March 18 before 34th District Court Judge David Parrott for two co-defendants accused of multiple 20-year felonies -- embezzling almost \$2 million from Archer Corporate Services (ACS), 6703 Haggerty Road, Van Buren Township.

One defendant, an officer in the firm, waived her preliminary exam and was bound over to circuit court for an arraignment on the information April 1.

Judge Parrott's courtroom was set up for the second exam, with more than 3,800 pages of documents in binders on the prosecutor's table. When court proceedings



on other cases left this lengthy exam to begin after noon, a decision was made to move it until 9 a.m. March 20 as a stand-alone

Rutherford proceeding in Judge Parrott's courtroom. A jury trial had been cancelled and the judge was available. Court-appointed defense attorney Evan Callanan said his client resides in Pontiac and has to pick up her child at 1:30 p.m. State Prosecutor Lori A. Dawson said she has one witness that has to be on an airplane in the afternoon, but if he's out of court by noon, he can make his flight.

About two hours of testimony from four witnesses were held March 20 and the exam will be completed at 2 p.m. April 8 for the final witness, Miss Jenkins, who will come into the courtroom from Birmingham, Alabama via Skype.

The co-defendant who waived her exam on March 18 was Lashantinette Daquette Obioha, 34, the former controller of ACS. She had posted her \$100,000/10% bond

(continued on page 7)



Van Buren Township Public Safety Director Greg Laurain, left, and Lt. Charles Bazy inspect a site for installation of the township's new emergency alert sirens. The first four of 13 sirens were installed March 19. This siren is located within Van Buren Park next to the boathouse. The other three were placed at Ecorse and Belleville roads, Haggerty and Ecorse next to the pump station, and one near Van Buren Plaza on Belleville Road. Director Laurain said the complete siren system hopefully will be up and running sometime in April.

Installation of emergency sirens begins in Van Buren Township

By Gregory M. Laurain
Director of Public Safety
Van Buren Township

We are happy to announce that all outside equipment has been delivered to our vendor (West Shore Services Inc.) and the installation process of the Emergency Alert Siren (EAS) system has begun.

As of Thursday, March 19, four siren sites were the first to be completed at Van Buren

Park, Ecorse and Belleville, Haggerty and Ecorse, and in the area of Van Buren Plaza. The remaining nine towers should be installed within a three-week period contingent on the frost law.

Though the system is not operational until all sirens are installed, we are developing protocols for Public Safety personnel to follow in the event of an emergency that requires the public / community to be notified by use of the Township EAS system.

This important life-safety project has been made possible through funding from the Downtown Development Authority, Van Buren Civic Fund, and CDBG block grant funds.



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SECOND FRONT PAGE

VB School Board gives Supt. Van Tassel 'highly effective' rating

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

The Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education gave School Supt. Michael Van Tassel the top "highly effective" annual rating for his work at its regular meeting March 16. Supt. Van Tassel also had his contract extended for another year, making it good until June 30, 2018.

Board members said they offered Van Tassel a raise, but he declined. His base pay in 2014 was \$132,502.46, plus benefits, for a total cost to the school district of \$191,118.49.

Board policy requires the board, no later than March, to evaluate the performance of the superintendent. A summary statement of that evaluation was developed by the board after a closed-door session evaluation of the superintendent's performance.

Under Van Tassel's contract, unless his contract is extended and salary set for an additional year by June 30 or written notice to the contrary is given by the board by 90 days before June 30 (April 1), the contract automatically extends for another year.

Board Secretary Kevin English read a summary of the evaluation.

The evaluation begins: "Superintendent Van Tassel continues to exceed our

expectations for effectiveness. His leadership is comprehensive, attending to all areas of operation and planning, while taking on extraordinary challenges without missing a beat.

"We are especially pleased with the methodic and long-range building he has done of both human capacity and effective processes. Our school district has never before, to our knowledge, invested so systematically in ongoing training, development, and continuous improvement.

"The results are evident in increased attention to staff morale, fewer parent complaints, better financial stability, incremental improvements in facilities, and – most importantly – the 21st Century curricula, materials, and teaching practices that have been producing above-average growth in student learning ..."

In other business at the March 16 meeting, held at Edgemont Elementary School, the board:

- Approved the recommendation to name Melissa Lloyd as new principal for Owen Intermediate School with a one-year term for the 2015-16 school year at a salary of \$94,416 plus fringe benefits offered to all administrators. Lloyd currently is an assistant principal at Belleville High School, with a base salary of \$83,494.36 for 2014, plus \$52,370.14 in administrative benefits for total compensation of \$135,864.50.

Lloyd holds a Master of Science degree in Educational Administration from the University of Scranton in Pennsylvania and



Lloyd
Shareen Barker;

- Approved a field trip, March 19-22, to the Amway Grand Hotel in Grand Rapids for the Business Professionals of America State Leadership Conference. Teacher Tracie Mckee said she will drive three 10th and 12th grade students to the event to compete and network with other students from across the state. The trip is sponsored by the Business Club at no cost to the students;

- Approved the retirement of teacher Kristian Sefcik of McBride after 17 years of service as of June 30. She is on a leave of absence for the 2014-15 school year;

- Approved the resignation of teacher Scott Hunwick of McBride after 10 years of service as of March 9. He also is on a leave of absence for the 2014-15 school year;

- Approved the resignation of Laura

Lintner of BHS after 10 years of service as of Feb. 27, for other employment, having accepted an administrative position;

- Approved the following terminations: Angela Ledford of Rawsonville, 20 years as a paraprofessional as of Feb. 23, resigned; Josephine Armstrong, cafeteria, 16 years in Food Service, as of Feb. 25, retired; Harvey Chesney, district-wide tech specialist for 14 years, as of March 6, resigned; and Diane Spivey, cafeteria, Food Service for 20 years, as of Feb. 18, deceased;

- Approved hiring Brandice Dorris as Fringe Benefits Accountant at the Administration Building, as of March 2; Qin Xu as of March 9 and Katerina Tynen as of March 10, both paraprofessionals at Edgemont Elementary;

- Heard a presentation on BHS curriculum by staff members led by Principal Abdul Madyun; and

- Listened to a parent report bullying of her son at Owen Intermediate School. Her name and phone number were taken and she was called the next day. Principal Jeff Moore met with her to discuss her concerns.

The March 16 meeting started off with a 52-minute closed-door session for the board to discuss the superintendent's evaluation and contract negotiations. The audience waited until 7:55 p.m. to begin the meeting posted to begin at 7 p.m.

Belleville DDA awards bid for Horizon Park project to Blue Ribbon

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

Four bids for construction of the Horizon Park kayak launch and attendant projects were opened by Dave Vallier of Spicer Engineers at the Feb. 18 meeting of the Belleville Downtown Development Authority.

In 2011, the estimate for the project was \$157,000, but the lowest bid opened on Feb. 18 was \$40,000 more than that, he pointed out.

Bidders were:

- Anglin Civil - \$223,600.25 for both divisions
- Davenport Brothers - \$211,284, both divisions
- Blue Ribbon - \$194,071.50 for both divisions
- Terraforma - \$99,670.99 for the first division

The DDA voted to give the bids to Spicer to go over them and make a recommendation.

Vallier said since there were two divisions in the project, he will separate parts of the bids and may recommend two companies

for the separate work projects.

The first division is for dock improvements, parking lot paving, concrete sidewalk, and shoreline/stairway grading and seeding, kiosk improvements, decorative benches, decorative trash receptacle, and clean up and site restoration.

The second division was for furnishing and installing the canoe/kayak launch, 150 feet of EZ Dock, and 2 EZ Dock gangways.

DDA Coordinator Carol Thompson said that local vendor preference in bidding is only for projects under \$100,000, in reply to Treasurer Sabrina Richardson-Williams question about whether Davenport will get a preference.

Actually, the Davenport Brothers business is in Belleville and their homes are in Sumpter Township. Bidder Blue Ribbon has his business located in Romulus and he lives in Van Buren Township. A Terraforma office is in Van Buren Township.

At its March 18 meeting, Vallier told the DDA that the project ran into a hiccup.

He said the project was set up to be bid in two divisions and at the mandatory pre-

bid meeting on Feb. 4 companies were told they could bid on one or both divisions.

Vallier said Davenport's bid of \$92,030 was low on division one and Blue Ribbon at \$96,690 was low on division two. Blue Ribbon was low on both divisions and Davenport was second.

Vallier said they heard back from the DNR on March 4 and the DNR said they could not award the bids by division.

The DNR said the DDA advertisement did not specifically state that they could bid by divisions and it could be misleading.

The DDA could revise the form and rebid or award the whole contract to Blue Ribbon, the low bidder.

Vallier said he told the DNR that he told the contractors at the meeting that they could bid by divisions.

He said he heard back from the DNR on March 13, saying the DDA had two options: rebid with the addendum that the base bids will be awarded by division or award the contract to the lowest bidder: Blue Ribbon.

The DNR noted that page AD-2 of the advertisement for bids said, "Oral

Statements may not be relied upon and will not be binding or legally effective."

"We need to make a decision," Vallier said.

DDA member Brian Copsey said, "Blue Ribbon should get it – a no-brainer to me." He said there were benefits to using the same company for both divisions of work.

Mayor Kerreen Conley, who sits on the DDA as a voting member, said there is a \$5,000 difference doing it this way. She noted the DDA still doesn't have FERC approval for the work in the lake.

Vallier said the work on the shore could start after the Frost Laws.

DDA coordinator Carol Thompson said the DDA is still waiting for operator of the dam STS and Van Buren Township to complete the report and send it to FERC.

Mayor Conley said the two contractors in the community – Davenport and Blue Ribbon – have been doing work in the city for years and she was kind of excited to think they could be working together.

"Both are very well respected and do

(continued on page 9)

OPINIONS

Editorial

Sumpter Roller Rink rolls back to Planning Comm.

Fraternities have been in the headlines lately for wrecking a hotel up north. A frat party also has caused lots of trouble in Sumpter Township. The Sumpter Roller Rink rented its building for a frat party last Halloween and it turned into an ugly incident involving a stabbing and a gun.

Owner Bewey Horn admits they shouldn't have rented to the fraternity and promised never to rent to such groups again. But, the police want to be sure no such activity occurs in the future and also want more respect for their officers when they come to the rink.

The township board sent the "special exception use permit" the rink had back to the planning commission to recommend whether the permit should be revoked. Planners ordered Horn to come up with an exact list of what he wanted to do there besides skate.

At the March 12 planning commission meeting there was a misunderstanding and angry dispute over the list. Horn asked for his permit to be cancelled and for the return of the money he spent to get the permit. The commission voted to do as he asked, even though he had changed his mind by the time they voted.

The township board makes the final decision and so it was sent back to the board. On Tuesday, the board sent it back to the planners to work it out. Sumpter needs the roller rink business and the roller rink needs extra income to survive. Let's work it out in a friendly way.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

On the voucher list approved for payment by the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees on March 17 was the purchase of two leg-irons for the jail cells at a cost of \$134. Interesting. Pulls up pictures in my mind of wild prisoners.

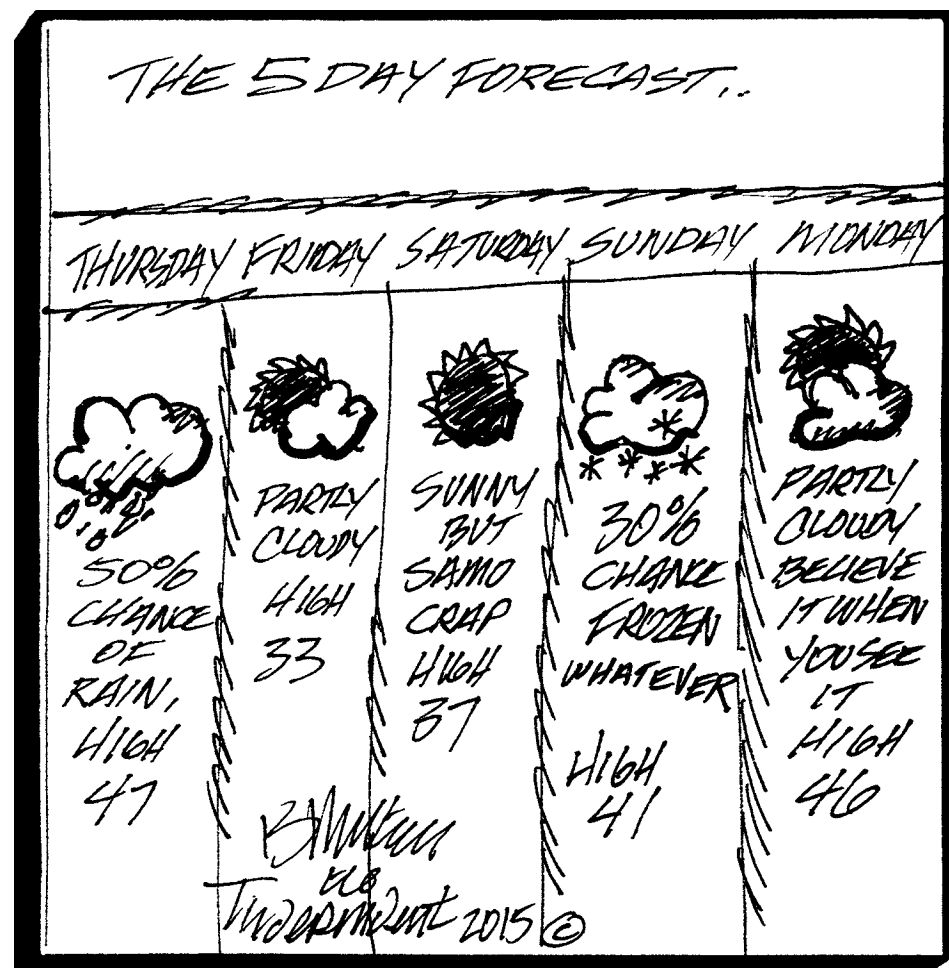
The \$6.4 million Capitol Dome renovation starts in Lansing on March 30 and the scaffolding covering the dome will be in place until fall. This is the first significant work on the outside of the state's Capitol building since 1992.

According to reports, the dome's decorative elements will be replaced and repaired. The sandstone walls will be cleaned and repaired. The entire dome and more than 200 windows are slated to be repainted.

There's a lot of corrosion on the dome and there are gashes and fastenings that are loose or missing. A lot of metal needs to be replaced and a lot of sealant needs to be cut out. Joints need to be resealed. Most of the exterior stonework has not been refurbished since the building was built in 1879.

Also much of the Capitol will be washed after years of grime have created some discoloration. Many years ago, a tacky chemical was applied to the Capitol to keep away pigeons. That substance has attracted dirt and other pollutants.

The State Prosecutor who is prosecuting the embezzlement case from Archer Corporate Services (ACS) on Haggerty Road in VBT is Lori A. Dawson. During a break in the court proceedings last Friday, Lori told me she also prosecuted the embezzlement charges in Romulus a few



years back that convicted the police chief, his wife, and others.

You may recall the preliminary exams for the Romulus defendants were held at the Van Buren Township Hall because they needed more room than they had at the 34th District Court.

Prosecutor Dawson said she learned a lot about embezzlement during that Romulus prosecution, so now she is the "embezzlement" prosecutor and got the ACS case. There are more than 3,800 pages of documents in this case and, so far, she and the officer in charge, VBT Lt. Ken Floro, have carried the many binders in and out of the courtrooms twice. They'll do that again, I think, on April 8 when the preliminary exam on one of the defendants wraps up.

I've been told by those driving down North Liberty Street on St. Patrick's Day that there were no-parking signs on both sides of street. There was a big, white tent set up on the Fourth Street Square next to Egan's Irish Pub and a huge party was held that evening, with people parking for blocks and blocks along Main Street. There also was a parking lot set up on the lakeside property that at one time was to hold BYC's club house.

There were many comments from Belleville residents about how nice it was to see all that activity in Belleville with so many people having a good time.

I asked Belleville Police Chief Hal Berriman about the no-parking signs on Liberty and he pled ignorance. He said he didn't know about any signs on Liberty and he certainly didn't order them to be put up.

He said he had been out and around along Main Street and parking on Main was packed. It was a nice crowd with very few problems, he said. He had the police Reserves out to patrol.

At the Belleville DDA meeting, the day after St. Patrick's Day on the 17th, members of the DDA were making their general comments at the end of the meeting. DDA member Brian Copsey, who owns the Bayou Grill on the other side of the Fourth Street Square from Egan's, said he had only one comment: "I'm glad it's March 18." That big party must have cut into the Bayou business for that one day.

The new president of the Western Wayne (County) Democratic Club is Kevin McNamara. I'll be getting a list of the rest of the new officers from the group, but having our former county commissioner and candidate for county executive as the president of the local Democrats is an interesting turn of events. Former WWDC president John Herman said he didn't run for reelection.



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Letters

VB T First Responders took great care of me!

To the Editor:

I want to praise the Van Buren Township police and fire fighters who came to my aid when my car was struck from the rear and rolled over right as I was turning into my driveway at 8:30 p.m., March 17.

I was heading north on Belleville Road from Tyler to go home and had my turn signal and brake lights on and was 70% turned into my driveway, when a car came out of nowhere, hit the back of my vehicle and rolled me over. I was left hanging upside down. Two young guys came over to help me and called the police and fire departments.

I asked them to help me out of the car, but they couldn't. I was afraid the car would burst into flames because of the gas spilling out and the hot muffler, but I was able to reach over and turn off the ignition.

I didn't know where that other car came from, since I could see nothing behind me when I started turning.

After the police came and then the fire fighters, I knew I was in good hands. They spoke calmly, which calmed me down. They treated me so professionally I am overcome with admiration.


They were beyond superior and kept me calm with their voices. They figured out a plan to get me out, covered me up good with a blanket, and then smashed out the rest of the windshield so I could be pulled through.

The EMTs checked me out and I was fine except for a bruise and a cut on my elbow. I didn't need to be transported.

People talk about the amount of money the police and fire fighters get, but when you're hanging upside down in a car you think is going to burst into flames at any minute, you don't care about the money.

"God Sees the Truth, But Waits"


--Leo Tolstoy



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I was so glad to see them.

The professional manner in which they cared for me leaves me at a loss for words. I just want to tell them all: Thank you! Our first responders are the best.

The police report indicates the female who was driving the other car said she was eating French fries out of a bag and looking down when she hit me. They found she had no driver's license, no proof of insurance, and the wrong plate on her car. I hope the people in her car weren't injured, either.

Toby Leis
Van Buren Township

Help family of child killed in auto accident

To the Editor:

Come out and enjoy spaghetti and help a good cause.

Drake was a loving, caring, beautiful, smart and witty 9-year-old boy, who passed away on March 16 after being involved in the automobile accident on March 11. A spaghetti dinner will be held on Saturday, March 28 from 4-9 p.m. at the Regal Beagle located at 817 East Michigan Ave in Ypsilanti.

Proceeds from the event will go to help Drake's mother and sister as they work through losing their son and brother. This is an all-age's event.

There is no admission charge to enter the event. Spaghetti will be \$5 per plate. In addition we will be having a 50/50 raffle as well as basket raffles.

If you would like to help but cannot make it to the event a GoFundMe page has been created as well.

<http://www.gofundme.com/olzy1c>

Help spread the word and I hope to see everyone on Saturday.

Page McLaughlin
Belleville

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-- Albert Einstein

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More Letters

Easter is the time for Hot Cross Buns!

To the Editor:

This is the holiest time of the year for Christians. It is Easter. This is also the time for special goodies called Hot Cross Buns!

I called around and finally found a baker that specially makes these delicious buns. The G&G Bakery on Willis Road in Sumpter Township is taking orders for Easter.

If you want to know more about the tradition and history of Hot Cross Buns, Google "History of Hot Cross Buns." There is a lot of information that will help you appreciate why these buns are only made at Easter time. If you don't have access to a computer, go to the local library and the librarians will be happy to assist you with your questions.

Note: This is a holy time for many and it is a time to reflect on what Easter really means and why we should be humble, grateful, and caring for those who are in need of a little kindness. Now, go, order, and share your buns with someone.


Happy Easter to everyone!

Marian Caldwell
Van Buren Township



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Embezzlement

(continued from page 1)

and retained attorney Peter Samouris.

Obioha was charged with three counts of embezzlement, two of which were more than \$100,000; five counts of forgery; two counts of false pretenses; identity theft; and using a computer to commit a crime (maximum imprisonment of 20 years or more).

The crime is dated as May 1, 2009 and the warrant was issued Nov. 20, 2014.

Co-defendant Marsha Sharlene Rutherford, 38, is charged with two counts of embezzlement for \$100,000 or more, two counts of false pretenses for \$100,000 or more, identity theft, and using a computer to commit a crime (maximum imprisonment of 20 years or more).

Date of crime is May 1, 2009; warrant issued Nov. 20, 2014.

Rutherford also has posted her \$100,000/10% bond.

Van Buren Township Police Lt. Ken Floro, the police officer in charge of the case, was one of the witnesses on Friday.

Nadeem Mumad

First witness for the prosecution was Nadeem Mumad, chief operating officer of Archer Corporate Services (ACS). He testified after investigating they found when ACS checks were written to one vendor they were subsequently changed to alter the payee. He said a lot of checks were modified after the fact. The total was \$1.8-\$1.9 million.

He said Obioha, the controller, did not have authority to hire vendors or sign contracts or operating agreements. She over-extended her authority.

Dennis Archer, Jr.

Second witness was Dennis Archer, Jr., ACS owner and president. The firm was incorporated in June 2004 and it does marketing services for clients, including trade, warehouse and distribution of rebates and coupons. It does printing and marketing for General Motors and does all the posters and books for North America GM.

He said ACS does not hire trucking firms, but it does warehouse the iPads being sent to General Motors dealerships.

Archer said Archway is the company that manages the logistics, which ACS does not do.

He testified that Obioha wrote checks, balanced the checkbook, made payments electronically, but is not authorized to sign checks, which he and his partner do.

He testified she was not authorized to write checks to herself, to Harvest Time Ministries, Next Detroit, Blue Rose Group,

Millenium Fund, Next Detroit Initiative, PHC Global LLC and others.

Obioha was not authorized to give a \$1.4 million charitable grant to a small business, PHC Global. When asked about Porter Billing, Archer called it a "back-room company" that ACS never hired. Porter Billing pays a company for its accounts receivable and then collects on them. ACS never hired them, he said.

Prosecutor Dawson showed Archer some checks and he said it looked like his signature on the checks, but he didn't sign any of them. He had reviewed all 198 checks presented and none of those signatures were his, he said.

He said he did not know Marsha Rutherford, PHC Global LLC or BNM Transportation, except as a result of these legal proceedings. ACS had no reason to hire a trucking company.

Prosecutor Dawson asked if Obioha was authorized to send ACS's tax returns to Porter Billings and Archer said she wasn't.

Dawson produced paperwork showing 1,108 Cadillac iPads being transported by BMN Transportation Services from Belleville to Proctor and Gamble headquarters in Cincinnati and a payment of \$10,526 for the transport. He said there was never a truckload of iPads and ACS never had such a shipment.

Michael Carr

Third witness was Michael Carr, CEO and one of the founders of ACS, a partner.

He did identify Marsha Rutherford in the courtroom.

"In late April 2004, you realized there was a problem, with fraudulent activities," Prosecutor Dawson prompted and Carr

told what happened.

He said one evening while he was driving home he got a call on his cell phone and he saw it was Shawn (Obioha), but a man's voice was on the phone. It was her husband Jason, who asked Carr to meet him at their home.

"She gave me information," Carr continued, telling what happened at Obioha's home.

"What did you do?" Prosecutor Dawson asked.

"I asked her why she did what she told me," Carr said. "Then I asked her to meet me in the office the next morning, on a Thursday. I called our attorney at Dickinson Wright and asked him for direction."

Carr said at the meeting, Obioha gave him a sheet of paper with check amounts.

"We had her leave the office to investigate the full extent of the fraudulent activities. She gave us Marsha Rutherford's address and bank account information," Carr said.

He said they had a letter from Jason Jenks, attorney with Jenks & Jenks, demanding payment of \$600,000 for an overdue outstanding balance for Porter Billing, a factoring company that advances money to clients against receivables.

Another exhibit produced by Prosecutor Dawson was an operating contract between BMN Transportation and ACS, which Carr said was presented by Obioha at the Thursday meeting. Also, the ACS tax returns for 2010, 11, and 12 were not authorized to send to Porter Billing for a credit check.

Carr also testified they did not authorize

(continued on page 8)

Obituaries



DONALD ROY MCGILL

(April 5, 1953 - February 25, 2015)

On Wednesday, February 25, 2015, Donald Roy McGill, 61, a Belleville resident, passed away at the V.A. Hospital in Ann Arbor after a struggle with illness.

He was born April 5, 1953 in Earle, Arkansas to Ester and Roy McGill. He lived life in high spirits. A retired radiologist and loving friend.

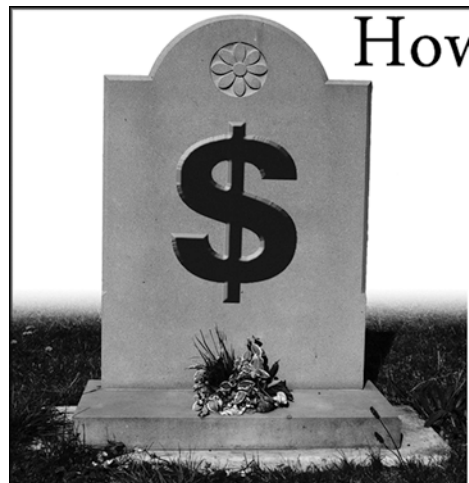
He is survived by his son Matthew McGill of Belleville, daughter Christi Pederson of Florida, brother Jim, sister Lydia, his mother and extended family.

In life he was around the best kind of people. Thank you to everyone who attended his memorial service on March 7 this year.

ALISHA L. JOHNSON-RAY

(August 13, 1979 - March 22, 2015)

Age 35, of Belleville. BHS graduate of 1997. Gathering will be noon until 2 p.m. Thursday, March 26, with a 2 p.m. funeral service at David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Dr. Cremation rites have been accorded.



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Embezzlement

(continued from page 7)

a \$1.4 million small-business grant to PHC Global, LLC.

Carr testified ACS had Minority Business status since it began in 2004 and didn't have to affiliate with anyone else because, "We ARE a minority business."

Police Lt. Ken Floro

Fourth witness was VBT Police Lt. Ken Floro, who said his department received a report of crime activity on May 2, 2014 from Carr, concerning fraudulent activity and embezzlement at ACS.

Lt. Floro said originally they thought it was a few hundred thousand dollars but now it is just shy of \$2 million.

He said his department checked into the situation and executed search warrants at the homes of Obioha and Rutherford, securing documents and electronic equipment. They conducted interviews.

Lt. Floro said he interviewed Rutherford at the Van Buren Township Police Department. He said he read her her Miranda Rights on May 9, 2014 and she agreed to talk to him.

"She had an understanding of why she was there because she was a suspect in fraudulent/embezzlement activity at ACS," Lt. Floro testified.

She said she got a private grant for Millennium, a double minority.

Lt. Floro identified the two business cards Rutherford gave him: One for BMN Transportation, which had her name on it as CEO and founder, and the other for PHC Global, which read "President and Owner" but had no name.

Lt. Floro said Rutherford said she became available as a vendor for PHC Global for ACS. He said she told him BMN Transportation was her company and was on an approved vendor list and shipped items for ACS on a regular basis.

Lt. Floro said the interview was cut short when Rutherford's attorney arrived and asked him to stop speaking to her.

Under cross-examination, defense attorney Callanan asked Lt. Floro about taking Rutherford into custody without a warrant for her arrest. Floro said the interview was not recorded and was 30-minutes long, at the most. He had written notes of what she told him which he used to authorize a

warrant request.

Callanan said Rutherford told Floro that she had a legally binding contract and there was no scheme to embezzle.

"She admits no wrong-doing to you," Callanan said and Floro agreed.

Editor's Note: Prosecutor Dawson said why Obioha revealed information to Carr on the embezzlement is not yet public record so she couldn't explain it yet.

Court Watching:

James Chapman gets 183 days in jail for trespassing incidents

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

James Forrest Chapman, 45122 Hull Road, Van Buren Township, was sentenced by 34th District Court Judge David Parrott to 183 days in jail and taken into custody on March 17 to begin serving his time.

Judge Parrott ordered there to be no early release and that Chapman, 55, must contact the court when he is released.

On Jan. 16, after an hour of deliberation, a 34th District Court jury found Chapman guilty of trespassing, malicious destruction of property, and larceny under \$200. That incident occurred on Sept. 15. The sentence for that was 93 days.

Judge Parrott ordered an additional 90 days added to the sentence because Chapman violated the court's conditional bond. Chapman was out on \$5,000 personal bond with conditions.

Judge Parrott had ordered him to have no contact with the property involved in the trespassing and that the violation on Oct. 12 was essentially contempt of court.

Judge Parrott said Chapman's permission to be on the property on the south side of Hull Road had been revoked. Chapman cut the lock or chain on the gate and then went off with the chain, claiming the chain was his. The larceny involved his retaining of the lock after he was asked to return it by one of the VBT police officers.

The second trespassing involved a large wooden Christian cross on the same property that had been taken down. Chapman went with Nicolas Jones to retrieve the cross,

which appeared to be made out of railroad ties and had been illuminated.

A photo of the cross lying on the ground was taken by police and was a part of the court record.

This was in the cornfield immediately to the west of 44975 Hull Road.

Chapman said that the cross held "biblical and sentimental value to him" and that's why he wanted it back.

Chapman's defense attorney was John Day.

Court Watching:

Koenig gets plea deal at Frank Murphy with probation, work detail

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

On Monday, Paul Koenig, 49, of Van Buren Township entered into a plea agreement at the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice and was

sentenced to a year's probation, serving five days on a work program, and paying minimal fines and costs.

Koenig had been charged with assault with a dangerous weapon (a dog) and assaulting or obstructing a public official on Aug. 28 in the 13000 block of Martinsville Road.

At the docket conference Koenig's attorney Jason Goldman discussed the case with one of the lead prosecutors and the

(continued on page 9)

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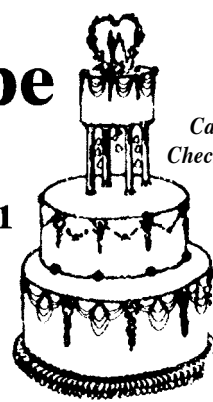
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Koenig

(continued from page 8)

prosecutor agreed to dismiss the assault with a dangerous weapon charge, a felony.

Koenig then pled guilty to "attempted obstruction" which is a misdemeanor. The court granted Goldman's request for immediate sentencing.

To form a factual basis to be convicted of attempted obstruction, Koenig stated on the record that he may have shouted a profane statement at the ordinance officer in an attempt to convince the ordinance officer to leave his property.

No mention was made of the dog that figured into the testimony of VBT Ordinance Officer David Schuler during the March 4 preliminary exam at 34th District Court.

Court Watching:

Defendant gets 18 charges dropped in plea deal on larceny charges

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Djuna Lynn Garbo pled guilty to a new reduced charge of larceny under \$200 and the charge of identity theft and 17 other counts were dismissed at 34th District Court in Romulus on March 11.

Garbo had been accused of using a Financial Transaction Device on Jan. 25, 2014 in Van Buren Township to take property and items from Patricia DiPietro.

The original charges, filed Feb. 6, were: larceny of \$1,000 or more but less than \$20,000, identity theft, Financial Transaction Device stealing/retaining without consent, 14 counts of FTD illegal sale/use, and FTD possession.

Her retained attorney Angie Martell said her client would pay the agreed-upon \$5,884 restitution by credit card after she left District Court Judge Tina Brooks Green's courtroom that morning.

Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Latoya Willis said the defendant agreed to mental health and substance abuse treatment.

Attorney Martell said Garbo has been in treatment for a long time and has been dry since 2014. She lived in Canton and now lives in Washtenaw County.

Judge Green noted the deferred sentence box was checked on the paperwork and she asked the prosecutor if that's what she wanted. Willis said she did.

So, she ordered Garbo to continue her substance-abuse and mental-treatments

with testing once a month. Then, she turned the case over to the probation department for an investigation and recommendation. Judge Green will sentence her after that report is done.

Garbo is free on \$1,000 personal bond. VBT Detective Mark Buxton is in charge of the case.

Belleville DDA

(continued from page 3)

good work," she said.

Vallier said if it was re-advertised on April 2 with plans and specs available April 6-10, there would be no pre-bid conference and they would notify those who bid and anyone else.

Copsey said everybody knows what was bid and that would cause a problem. Mayor Conley said that would bring lower bids.

Copsey made a motion to move forward and award the bid to Blue Ribbon, pending approval from the DNR. Sabrina Richardson-Williams seconded the motion and it was approved 5-1 with Mayor Conley voting no.

"Does the township know it has things to do?" asked Councilman Tom Fielder from the audience.

Thompson said she talks to them every week. She said a packet is assembled by VBT and STS but Belleville doesn't have a copy of the sent documents.

After the vote was taken to approve Blue Ribbon, DDA chairwoman Rosemary Loria said, "It was a tough decision. I don't know if there's a right or wrong decision. Hopefully, we'll get the kayak launch built this summer."

At the March 18 meeting, the DDA:

- Heard a report on the Belleville Area Museum program by Director Katie Dallos; and

- Was informed that the BYC will do its Beautification project on May 2 and asked the DDA to provide the dumpster.

In other business at the brief Feb. 18 meeting, the DDA:

- Heard a verbal report and accepted a written report from Randy Brown on the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce's Winter Fest. Last year the DDA's grant money went to pay for Winter Fest fireworks and he said they had a \$124 profit on the Fest. "It's a family event and

we want to keep it a family event," Brown said, adding the scheduling conflict with the Angel of Hope ceremony was worked out. He said attendance was down this year, with 3,000 people estimated to have attended each of the days. He said they would like to think of ways to bring more people out for Winter Fest;

- Heard Kelly Howey of Plante Moran present the Alan C. Young & Associates annual audit for the DDA as of June 30, 2014. She said the audit had no findings and no suggestions for improvements and would be like an "A" grade. Howey said she reduced the 31-page audit document to four pages to present to the DDA; and

- Heard Randy Brown say the weeds around the bridge coming into town detract from the city's entrance. He said the DPW should cut them or spray them. He said the Van Buren Township DDA and Belleville DDA could do a joint project and take care of the weeds on Denton Road, too. Former DDA chairman John Hoops, who was in the audience, said they had looked into herbicides that were safe next to the lake. He said it is more cost-effective to trim than to pay more for spray that is safe to use around water. DDA member Gary Snarski challenged Brown to come up with a way to deal with the weeds. John Hoops said VBT owns the shoreline, so that might be something to consider. Brown thought both entities could work together. Snarski said if Brown came up with a method they could take it to VBT for the township to consider.

Morgan Hunter named to Dean's List at Siena Heights

Morgan Hunter of Belleville has been named to the Dean's List for the fall 2014 semester at Siena Heights University in Adrian. To be on the Dean's List students must attain a 3.5 grade point average for 12 or more semester hours of letter-graded work. During the fall semester, Morgan earned a 3.8 GPA. Morgan was born and raised in Belleville and graduated from Belleville High School in 2012. She is in her junior year at Siena Heights, where she has a full scholarship. Morgan is studying Criminal Justice to become a forensic scientist. Her parents are Kelvin Hunter, Sr. and Marilyn Hunter.

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Keystone Academy school board seeks new board member

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

Are you interested in becoming a school board member?

The Keystone Academy school board is looking for a new board member since present board vice-president Amy Gusfa has resigned to take a job opportunity in Cincinnati.

At the March 12 board meeting, Gusfa explained that her husband, who originally is from Cincinnati, has had a job that kept him traveling on the road for years. With this new job in Cincinnati he won't have to travel.

She said she starts her new job in April and so the March 12 meeting was her last meeting as a board member.

The open seat is a member-at-large position, so candidates do not have to have children in the school or be an educator. Board members also do not have to live in the community.

The way it works is that the local school board nominates a candidate for the seat and that must be approved by the charter school authorizer, Bay Mills Community College.

The position is appointive not elective, such as in traditional public schools.

A National Heritage Academies brochure said board members serve approximately five hours a month, essentially to prepare for and participate actively in board meetings. The terms are for three years that can be renewed.

There is no financial compensation and board members do not do fund raising.

"There is the reward of knowing that you are helping to mold a child's life," the brochure said, inviting the public to learn more about the school by visiting keystoneacademy.org.

Keystone Academy is a free public charter school located at 47925 Bemis Road in Sumpter Township and has 768 students in grades Young 5's to 8th grade.

Other board members are: chairwoman Vesta Losen, treasurer Carol Manley, secretary Susan Meland, and William Johnson.

Those interested may call Keystone at (734) 697-9470.

In other business at the March 12 meeting the board:

- Heard Reg Ion, the grandfather of two Keystone students, give suggestions for ways to manage the pick-up-students part of the day that leads to traffic being disrupted on Bemis Road. He said the main problem is that they don't have enough parking, but that's the fault of the Sumpter Planning Commission that approved their plans when the building was constructed. The board and Principal Keturah Godfrey listened to his suggestions and said they will look into making the pickup more efficient. Godfrey told Ion that she is both principal and superintendent in this single-school district and she has "an incredible open-door policy" where people can come in at any time to talk to her. She invited Ion to come in with any other suggestions or comments. "You don't find that in traditional public schools," Ion said;

- Heard Principal Godfrey say the school could use three more Chrome Books per grade for a total of 27 new units. The Chrome Books cost \$250 per unit for a total of \$6,750. She said this in response to a board question of what the board could buy for the staff for Teacher Appreciation Week and National Charter School Week on May 4-8. They directed Godfrey to come up with a proposal for the next meeting;

- After a public hearing, passed the Revised School Safety and Anti-Bullying Policy to go along with the legislature's changes, especially on cyber bullying. Although Keystone already had cyber bullying policy, this has more complete wording to protect anyone reporting cyber bullying and keep their name confidential. "Cyber bullying is increasing exponentially because of the availability of technology," said the board's attorney LaRae G. Munk. The new law goes into effect March 31;

- Approved the Revised Wellness Policy to comply with federal laws. The U.S. Department of Agriculture changed its policy and added requirements for compliance. Munk said the revised policy went before the federal auditors and the federal legal counsellors at NHA to make sure Keystone's operations are compliant;

- Approved the 2015-16 school calendar;

- Approved the 2014-15 regular and A-133 Audit Letter of Engagement with Plante Moran;

- Heard Godfrey report that the school raised \$7,000 for the American Heart Association and so two administrators each ate a cricket whole and then a cricket pan-fried in garlic, as promised, if their \$4,000 goal was exceeded in the Jump Rope for Heart project; and

- Heard Godfrey announce the annual School Carnival is Saturday, March 28.

The next board meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. on Tuesday, April 14.

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 <p>New Listing!</p> <p>13760 Hoeft, Belleville \$210,000- 5 bedroom, 3 baths, 2872 sqft ranch on 8.83 ACRES!!! Features: indoor pool rm, modern kitchen, oversized rms, huge pole barn, paved patio & much more</p>	 <p>13216 Mauntak, Belleville \$161,900- 3 bdrm, 2.2 bths, 2080 sqft home w/ 1st flr master ste, great rm w/ vaulted ceilings, full partially fnshd bsmt, backs to pond, & more!</p>	 <p>425 Burton, Ypsilanti \$50,000-3 bdrm, 1 bath, 864 sqft ranch has new flooring & paint thru-out, new furnace, hot water tank & bath fixtures & fenced backyard!</p>	 <p>New Listing!</p> <p>8731 Lilly, Ypsilanti Twp. \$249,900- 4 bdrm, 3 1/2 bth, 2550 sqft home. 2 stry foyer, great rm w/ gas frplc, luxury mstr ste, 1000 sqft brick paver patio overlooking pond</p>	 <p>New Listing!</p> <p>7925 Newbury, Ypsilanti Twp \$215,000- 4 bedroom, 2 full, 2 half baths, 1790 sqft beauty! Upgrades galore! Fnshd bsmt w/ mahogany bar & rec rm, kit w/ granite counters & more!</p>

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VICTORY PARK AT FIVE POINTS

Candy Hunt Schedule

- 12:15 p.m.----- Toddler to 3 years old
- 12:30 p.m.----- 4 to 5 years old
- 12:45 p.m.----- 6 to 7 years old
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Women's Club seeks volunteers for Reality Check event at McBride

The Belleville Area Women's Club is looking for community volunteers to help with the Reality Check program the club will be putting on at McBride Middle School from 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 7.

For the Reality Check, the club works

with eighth-grade students to give them a reality check on what it would be like to be out on their own.

The students are given details of a life: "You're 25. You live in Belleville." They find out if they are married or single, have any children, if they have a car, and they select their occupation from a list and then are given a salary that has to meet all their needs.

"This is an outstanding program where we reach into the community," said Sophia Zoller of the women's club.

No prior experience is required. Those seeking more information are invited to call Gloria Dougherty, (734) 699-9892; Connie Stoelton, (734) 424-9066, Lynn38@core.com; or Sophia Zoller, (734) 697-7379, sofiaazol@comcast.net.

"Being powerful is like being a lady. If you have to tell people you ARE, you AREN'T."

-- Margaret Thatcher
British Prime Minister, 1925-2013

More Letters

Different California student needs help

To the Editor:

Hello, I am a fifth grader at Napa Valley Language Academy in Napa, CA. I am writing to you because my class is doing a state report. I have chosen your magnificent state, Michigan.

I would love it if you published my letter in your newspaper. It would really help my report. What would be so helpful from you and your readers are pamphlets, postcards, or souvenirs or anything helpful. I will be writing about your great state, Michigan's agriculture, history, economy, famous people, historical events and I will be doing an oral report on your state.

Thank you for your support.

If you have any questions, please contact my teacher at ihernandez@nvusd.org.

Dustin W.

Napa Valley Language Academy
2700 Kilburn Ave., Napa, CA 94558

Editor's Note: Napa Valley Language Academy is a Spanish/English Immersion Charter School. Another California student sent us a similar letter that was printed Feb. 19 and our readers opened their hearts. They sent many packages of Michigan items to Citlalli Alvarado, a fifth grader at Salida Elementary School in Salida, CA. State reports must be part of California's fifth-grade curriculum. How Belleville got involved is a mystery.

Orphan of the Week

Friends of Michigan
Animals Rescue

"MILA"



Meet **Mila** but be warned only keep reading if you love outgoing, affectionate and talkative kitties since **Mila** is all three and more. This super friendly girl can't get enough attention and has no problem following you around and meowing till she gets some loving. **Mila** will be thrilled to find a fur-ever home where lots of pets, ear scratches, lap snuggles and afternoon chats are considered mandatory daily activities. She also appears to enjoy living at a more leisurely pace and will probably do best in a calmer home environment. Along with her charming personality she's also a very pretty kitty. She's got a lovely tiger tabby coat, larger build and sparkling light green eyes that she will quickly use to set her sights on you with. Come meet **Mila** aka Ms. Friendly Kitty today. She's spayed, vaccinated, tested neg. for FeLuk/FIV and micro-chipped. Call **Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue** at **734-461-9458** or visit our website **fmar1.org** for more information.

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Things to do in the Belleville area...

- Throughout the month of March – Quilt Show at the Belleville Area Museum.
- **Saturday, March 28** – State Rep. Kristy Pagan, D-Canton, invites constituents to a coffee hour at 10 a.m. at Leo's Coney Island, 9624 Belleville Road in Van Buren Township.
- **Saturday, March 28** – There's an Autism Fund Raiser in the Belleville High School gymnasium beginning at 9 a.m. Sign up by March 20 by calling (734) 636-4909, but walk-ins are still welcome. Come walk, run, push or wheel with others while raising money for Van Buren Schools, Burger School for Autism and Webster Elementary in Livonia.
- **Saturday, March 28** – Walk-in registrations for Belleville Cougar Football and Cheer for the 2015 season from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Wayne County Community College – Western Campus on Haggerty Road, room C104.
- **Saturday, March 28** – Sumpter Township Easter Egg Hunt for children starts at noon at Graham Park, Sumpter Road at Wear Road.
- **Saturday, March 28** – Children's Sewing Workshop at the Belleville Area Museum. \$1 per child; reservations recommended, (724) 697-1944. At noon, 1 p.m., 2 p.m., 3 p.m. This year children 7-12 years of age will make doll quilts for Mott Children's Hospital.
- **Saturday, March 28** – Van Buren Community Soccer is holding a bowling fund raiser 2-5 p.m. at Lodge Lanes in Belleville. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$15 for children 12 and under. Includes pizza, drink, 2 games, shoes. Raffle and 50/50.
- **Saturday, March 28** – Basketball game to benefit the local St. Vincent DePaul

charity is being held at the high school gym. Tickets are \$10 for those 10 years old and older, with younger kids free. Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren police officers will face off against the fire fighters from those communities. Last year the fire fighters won. Doors open at 6 p.m. Game starts at 7 p.m.

• **Thursday, April 2** – This is the first of a four-session series to Learn Meditation – Mind, Body and Soul with instructor Sissel Bridges, 11 a.m. to noon at the September Days Senior Center, fee \$20. Sign up at the center, 699-8918.

• **Saturday, April 4** – Flop E. Bunny Candy Hunt at Victory Park. Free. Courtesy of the Belleville Central Business Community, noon.

• **Saturday, April 4** – Take your Household Hazardous Waste to the Wayne County sponsored collection from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Romulus Civic Center, 11111 Wayne Rd.

• **Wednesday, April 8** – Chicken Supper from 5 p.m. to sell out at Willow United Methodist Church, 36925 Willow Rd., New Boston, (734) 654-9020. Carry-outs start at 4:30 p.m. Adults \$10, children 12 and under \$5.

• **Saturday, April 11** – Autism Fund Raiser begins at 4 p.m. at the Van Buren Eagles Lodge, 9961 Beck Road. All proceeds go to the Van Buren Public Schools in Belleville, Burger School for Students with Autism in Garden City, and Webster Elementary in Livonia. Tickets \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. Call Rich at (734) 629-7122.

• **Thursday, April 16** – Third Thursday Lecture at 6 p.m. at the Belleville Area Museum features Gerald Dodson, retired from the Department of Defense, presenting "JFK: No More Tomorrows." Free to members of the Historical Society and \$5 for non-members.

Sumpter Township Parks & Recreation Presents:



CHILDREN'S EASTER EGG HUNT

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More Letters

Legacy costs detrimental to Van Buren Township

To the Editor:

Van Buren Township has a police officer making \$215,000 per year and we have a staunch union supporter defending these

circumstances as the American way, and a "good ol' boy" management accepting it, and a weak administration allowing this to happen for their own preservation. The circumstances allowing this to happen are cancerous, and it borders on a police state.

The reason officers and other employees work overtime as firefighters is to pad their income AND retirement.

The retirement compensation for police officers who are now retiring at 48 years

old and started working when they were 18 years old is based on 75% of their final three years' compensation. So 75% of \$215,000 is \$161,250 per year for retirement. Are you OK with that? (This could vary depending on the age, length of service and total last three years of compensation of an officer.)

We will now have a legacy cost for just one officer equivalent to the base pay of three new officers for a period of 20-30 years.

The cancerous ones will defend this practice of padding retirement by saying the officers were benevolent in helping the township when they were short of qualified firefighters.

In reality the cancerous ones caused the shortage by:

A. Stymying the efforts of a courageous fire chief to hire/train recruits. (The chief was fired.)

B. Making conditions for the part-time firefighters less than desirable.

C. Police officers taking cushy weekend firefighter assignments where they can sleep for 8 hours.

(Do they control the callouts -- don't bother us unless there is a serious fire? Nighty night!)

The officers falsely claim they have seniority over firefighters allowing the police to pick the best assignments. In reality, the firefighters should have first choice of assignments in their own department. They have not worked any hours when assignments are made. The officers have their full hours of regular officer assignments. Part-time firefighters are cowed into not pushing for this right by the cancerous ones. Some get fired. The seniority rights assignment issue is not given to police officers in their contract, they just take it. Nowhere in union contracts does one departmental group have seniority rights in another group's hours, let alone choice overtime rights. Watch for our weak administrators to put this in their next police contract.

Officers have claimed that the windfall retirement is paid from their own retirement funds. The reality is that your taxes are used to make up most of the shortfall in the funds.

The cancerous ones try to say that the "Blended Rate" that is mandated by the courts is the culprit. People listen to the cancerous ones fictitiously whine about blended rates and then go -- Oh, OK your hands are tied by the court ruling. In reality here is the explanation of blended rates:

When VBT first started letting police officers work overtime as firefighters they compensated them with overtime rates of a firefighter. The police wanted to get paid overtime police officer rates. The courts settled this issue. They said that the township must pay officers a blended rate when they work as firefighters. That rate would be made up of 80% of the officer's rate of pay and 20% firefighters' rate of pay.

An example of a police officer making \$50,000 per year is about \$24/hour and firefighters wage of about \$18/hour. (Not exact rates. Rounded for ease of calculation.) The officer's blended rate would be $(24 \times .8) + (18 \times .2) = \22.80 . It is clear that whether VBT pays \$18, \$24, or \$22.80 that difference is not much of an issue (albeit it would be an even bigger issue for highly compensated officers).

Calling the court-mandated "Blended Rate" the issue, is just a smoke screen put up by the cancerous ones. Every time someone brings up the windfall issue the cancerous ones bring up "Blended Rate" and the real issue gets side-tracked. If someone brings up "Blended Rates" as an issue, look them in the eye and say it is not an issue.

Let me repeat, Blended Rates are not the issue that is costing our township serious money in wages and retirement legacy costs. The real issue is that we are paying officers overtime to work as firefighters. Some officers have enough hours to get paid double time. Why would any competent management/administration allow work to be done at \$45.60/hour (or greater) when it could be done at \$18/hour? There is no current law, union contract, or court ruling that forces the township to allow officers/employees to work overtime as firefighters.

The cancerous ones claim that the officers are doing a great service to the community and sacrificing their lives. In reality, these ones are shorting us. How well can a person

(continued on page 16)

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More Letters

(Continued from page 15)

work after that much overtime making life-changing decisions? One courageous fire official blew the whistle on the practice of police on overtime spending hours on personal business while on the clock. He is now fired. Will that blunder cost VBT an additional \$50,000 - \$200,000?

The same sorry excuses to justify paying 3X the wages to accomplish work have been used for years. (See shortage of firefighters above.) One courageous trustee who fought this practice was threatened with death for his actions. The MSP investigated and determined that the threatening phone call came from a police officer's desk (who was nearing retirement and worked a lot of overtime) with the voice and source phone number disguised. That trustee's outside job was then threatened, if he did not back off.

Next the cancerous political machine helped vote this trustee out of office. The position of firefighting can be very physically demanding. One police officer trained to be a firefighter at the age of 60. The cancerous ones will claim that they could not prevent this because they cannot discriminate because of age. In reality, can a 60 year old lift hoses full of water and point hoses with over 100 pounds of water pressure for very long? The "good ol' boy network" had this one pass the physical. Was his motive to become a firefighter "benevolent or community-minded"? Do you want 5 of these guys saving lives and fighting a fire at your house? There is no discrimination if the person applying cannot legitimately meet the grueling physical requirements.

Cancer is a small portion of a whole. There are many fine police officers in VBT. There are some good people on the administrative board, and there are probably some good police managers.

Since the administration is shirking its fiduciary responsibility to correct this I would like to see someone on the board step up and sponsor a motion to stop the practice of having employees work overtime as firefighters and plug the holes that stop hiring of firefighters.

The person that steps up would be called courageous by good people and dangerous by the cancerous ones. Do you see the pattern of what happens to courageous ones? Fired, muzzled, threatened, or voted out.

This can be changed by all of the good community, the good administrators and management supporting a motion to stop this waste of our tax money. I would include members of the VBT Public Safety Committee to support this motion also, but ... oh, they were disbanded by the current administration's highest elected position.

VBT board, do the right thing. Save VBT exorbitant current and legacy costs.

Community, support board members who vote to correct this situation. Use your pen, and vote. Use your pen and your vote to eliminate the cancerous ones.

Name withheld by request
Fear of safety - such a shame!
Van Buren Township Resident

People of Van Buren Township aren't stupid

To the Editor:

In the March 12 paper a CeJay Marshall broke down the salary of Ken Floro. To me it sounds like "fuzzy" math and sleight of hands. People of Van Buren aren't stupid. Name withheld by request

District Library sets Spring Storytimes

Announcing Spring Storytimes at the Belleville Area District Library.

Spring "Family" Storytime will be at 7 p.m. Mondays, March 23-April 27.

Spring "Toddler Times" Storytimes will be at 11 a.m. Tuesdays, March 24-April 28 and at 11 a.m. Thursdays, March 26-April 30.

The library will be closed on Good Friday, April 3.

"Fiction is obliged to stick to possibilities.
Truth isn't."

Mark Twain

INDEPENDENT CLASSIFIED ADS

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Johnny's Grill Restaurant located on Belleville Lake is looking for experienced Bartenders, Chefs, Pizza Makers, Managers, Dishwashers, Servers and Delivery Drivers. Also need a full time Maintenance Person. Must be reliable. Mail resume to: Johnny's Grill, 146 High St., Belleville, MI 48111 or fax to (734) 699-7847

FT/PT custodians needed. Must be reliable, have own transportation, pass a background check. Email mijobopenings@gmail.com

AREA TRAINEE for local Real Estate Firm. For appointment call (734) 697-1800 TFN

HELP WANTED

BUDWEISER BOTTLES - \$2, WINE AVAILABLE!

CHINA KING

45915 S. I-94 Service Dr., Belleville

Next to the Belleville Post Office

(734) 699-1550

See our menu online at chinakingbelleville.com

DOUBLE COMBINATION PLATES - \$9.25

SINGLE COMBINATION PLATES - \$6.50 - \$7.00

10% OFF

Any Entree (Includes Carry Out Orders)
or Buffet Purchase Per Person

**DINE-IN OR CARRY OUT
Chinese & American Food**

**CHINA KING COUPON
COUPON EXPIRES APRIL 30, 2015**

HOURS
MON.-THURS. 11AM-10PM
FRI. 11AM - 11PM
SAT. 12PM-11PM
SUN. 12PM-10PM

**WiFi
HOTSPOT**



INDEPENDENT CLASSIFIED ADS

AUCTION

PUBLIC AUCTION
Saturday, March 28th
at The Q
879 Sumpter Rd.
 Preview 6:30pm, Auction 7:00pm
 — **CASH ONLY** —
JNGauctions.com
734-489-4636

ESTATE SALE

ESTATE SALE AT 42907 Winding Pond Trail in Country Pond Estates. March 27, 28 and 29 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Furniture, pictures and other household items. (734) 837-9930 3/26

RUMMAGE SALE

RUMMAGE & BAKE SALE. April 1,2,3 and April 8,9,10, 9am-5pm. Morning Star Church, 44441 Clay. 4/9

FOR SALE

HAY FOR SALE
Round Bales Only.
Leave Message.
734-587-2344

NEW DARK BLUE Swivel Chair. Very modern. Paid \$370, asking \$100. Must sell. (734) 941-3785. 4/9

VEHICLE FOR SALE

1998 JEEP CHEROKEE. 4-wheel Drive, auto, mud & snow tires. Runs good. Motor & Transmission are great. \$1,600 (734) 363-3744. 4/2

1997 FORD RANGER. Auto, red, 4 cyl. 120 miles. Clean inside & out. \$1,800. (734) 697-1417 4/2

2010 CHEVY COBALT, dark blue, \$94,000 well maintained miles, tires very good. Recently detailed. 1 owner. Excellent condition. \$5,500 OBO. (734) 697-1478. 4/9

F350 - 4 DOOR, 1999, 7.3 diesel, auto, 4 wheel drive, electric start. New tires/brakes. 98,000 miles. No rust. Customized. \$22,000. (734) 699-3452 4/30

LOST

GOLD HIGH SCHOOL RING. No stone. Initials EB. Lost by Wal-Mart. Call the Independent (734) 699-9020 4/9

WANTED

WE BUY JUNK CARS
7 Days A Week
We'll Beat Any Competitors Offer!
CASH PAID!
Public Towing Available Too!
(734) 787-1444

WANTED: SCRAP CARS
TOP PRICES PAID!
True II Life Towing
(313) 268-3452
Call for all your Towing Needs

WANTED - ANY SIZE MEN'S JEANS for the homeless. Please drop off at Bladez's 601 E. Huron River Drive. (734) 697-5600 TFN

WANTED - SMALL CONTAINERS of Shampoo, Toothpaste, etc. to take to homeless in Detroit. Drop off at Bladez's, 601 E. Huron River Dr. (734) 697-5600 TFN

FREE

ROSEMARY LORIA EDMONT ST You've won a dozen free roses. Pick them up at Main St. Flower's downtown, Belleville. (734) 697-7400 or www.mainstreetflowersbelleville.com TFN

60" SONY TV, DLP, HD. One problem with color. Leave Message: (734) 476-0306 4/2

PIT BULL PUPPIES. Ready to go. (734) 576-5660 4/2

LOWERY SPINET TRANSISTORIZED CHURCH ORGAN. 2 level keyboard. Free - you pick up and move. Call (734) 740-1910. 4/9

FOR RENT

ONE BEDROOM. All utilities included except electricity. One month deposit required. Rent \$625. (313) 790-0498 4/16

CLEAN, SPACIOUS 1 bedroom Apt. \$650, all utilities paid, plus \$500 deposit. No Pets/Smoking. (734) 697-9612. 3/26

SERVICES

A&L SERVICES
Home Improvement & Handyman Service
 Painting, Drywall, Carpentry, Electrical, Plumbing, Ceramic Tile, Kitchens & Bath. Serving Belleville Since 1995. Call Aaron Schultz @ 734-740-0628

M.D. APPLIANCE SERVICE

Refrigerators • Washers
 Dryers • Ranges
 \$20 House Call
Phone (734) 782-3354

PLUMBING • SEWER DRAINS • HANDYMAN
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK!
CALL US!
Local To The Belleville Area. Call (313) 740-6276. Ask For Bill.

LOCAL HANDYMAN - SOME Jobs too LARGE - NO JOB too SMALL. Residential Snow Removal. LICENSED & REFERENCES. (734) 765-9224 TFN

MURRAY'S GENERAL SERVICE. Spring clean-up, seasonal mowing, commercial/residential. Licensed and Insured. (734) 325-6062 4/16

"Start every day off with a smile and get it over with."
 — W.C. Fields

Notice to Advertisers:

The Belleville-Area Independent will not be liable for failure to publish an ad as requested or for more than one incorrect insertion of an advertisement. In the event of any error or omission in printing or publication of an advertisement, you must notify us within five days of publication or on the date of insertion, if an ad is scheduled as part of a package, so there is time to correct subsequent publications. The Independent's liability shall be limited to an adjustment for the cost of the space occupied by the error with a maximum liability being cancellation of the cost of the first incorrect advertisement or republication of the corrected advertisement. Under no circumstances shall the Independent be liable for consequential damages of any kind.

MANUFACTURED HOMES FOR SALE

Double Down and Win Big with Franklin Homes!

We'll match your tax return up to **\$4000 as credit** when you purchase a select Franklin owned home in one of our fine communities through April 15th.* Visit our website for a list of homes for purchase or lease **www.FranklinHomeSales.com**

Franklin
 • Manufactured Homes • Communities
Belleville Manor
734-699-7700
Belleville Road just 1 mile north of I-94
Van Buren Estates
734-697-6159
3 miles south of I-94 at the Rawsonville Exit
Mohawk
734-513-4108
Joy Road between Middlebelt and Inkster
 *WAC, Certain restrictions apply.

PROPERTY FOR SALE

\$53,000. Looking to build your dream home? Great opportunity to own this lovely 3.19 acres in Belleville. Country setting. 196 ft. frontage. Can be split with easement. City water at road. Property perked and approved in 2006. For more information, call Penny Young at (734) 740-7350. **Century 21 Belvil Realty (734) 697-1800**

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

NOTICE OF CLOSE OF REGISTRATION FOR THE SPECIAL ELECTION TUESDAY MAY 5, 2015

To the Qualified Electors of CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN – WAYNE COUNTY

Notice is hereby given that Monday, April 6, 2015 is the last day to register to vote or change your address for the above stated election.

PROPOSALS:

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROPOSAL 15-1

A proposal to amend the State Constitution to increase the sales/use tax from 6% to 7% to replace and supplement reduced revenue to the School Aid Fund and local units of government caused by the elimination of the sales/use tax on gasoline and diesel fuel for vehicles operating on public roads, and to give effect to laws that provide additional money for roads and other transportation purposes by increasing the gas tax and vehicle registration fees.

The proposed constitutional amendment would:

- Eliminate sales/use taxes on gasoline/diesel fuel for vehicles on public roads.
- Increase portion of use tax dedicated to School Aid Fund (SAF).
- Expand use of SAF to community colleges and career/technical education, and prohibit use for 4-year colleges/universities.
- Give effect to laws, including those that:
 - Increase sales/use tax to 7%, as authorized by constitutional amendments.
 - Increase gasoline/diesel fuel tax and adjust annually for inflation, increase vehicle registration fees, and dedicate revenue for roads and other transportation purposes.
 - Expand competitive bidding and warranties for road projects.
 - Increase earned income tax credit.

Should this proposal be adopted?

VAN BUREN PUBLIC SCHOOLS PROPOSAL: MILLAGE PROPOSAL-BUILDING AND SITE SINKING FUND TAX LEVY

Shall Van Buren Public Schools, Counties of Wayne and Washtenaw, State of Michigan, create a sinking fund for the purpose of construction or repair of school buildings and the improvement and development of sites and for any other purpose which may be authorized by law, and be authorized to levy not to exceed 1.13 mills (\$1.13 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a period of seven (7) years, 2016 to 2022 inclusive? This levy would renew the sinking fund levy previously authorized by the voters in 2008 for an additional seven (7) years. It is estimated that the revenue the school district will collect if the millage is approved and levied in the 2016 calendar year shall be approximately \$1,715,961 from the local taxes authorized in this proposal. A portion of the revenue collected may be subject to capture by the Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority.

A sample of the ballot may be obtained at the Van Buren Township Clerk's Office or on the Township website www.vanburen-mi.org.

If you are not currently registered to vote or have changed your address in the above stated jurisdiction in which you live, you may do so at the following locations and times listed in this notice.

Qualified electors may also register to vote or change their address in the following manners:

In Person:

At the township clerk's office or at the office of any county clerk during normal business hours.

At any of the Secretary of State Branch offices located throughout the state during normal business hours.

At the specified agency for clients receiving services through the Family Independence Agency, the Department of Community Health, Michigan Jobs Commission and some offices of the Commission for the Blind.

At the military recruitment offices for persons enlisting in the armed forces.

By Mail:

By obtaining and completing a Mail Voter Registration Application and forwarding to the election official as directed on the application by the close of registration deadline. Mail voter registration applications may be obtained

by contacting:

VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP CLERK
46425 TYLER RD.
VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP, MI 48111
734.699.8909

Telephone number:

Qualifications for Registration

1. Applicant is at least 18 years of age.
2. Resident of Van Buren Township for at least 30 days.
3. Citizen of the United States.

Note: A Person who registers to vote by mail is required to vote in person unless they have previously voted in person or are at least 60 years of age or are handicapped.

Applications for Absentee Voter Ballots are available at the Clerk's Office. The deadline for filing an application to receive an Absentee Ballot for the May 5, 2015 Election is Saturday, May 2, 2015 until 2:00 p.m. at the Clerk's office.

Leon Wright
Township Clerk

Publish: 3-26-15
Posted: 3-11-15

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN NOTICE OF PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST

In compliance with State Election Law 168 Section 798, a Public Hearing will be conducted on Thursday April 2, 2015, at 3:30 p.m. in the Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Road, Belleville, Michigan. The Public Accuracy Test is conducted to demonstrate the program and computer that will be used to tabulate the results of the election, counts the votes in the manner prescribed by law for the Special Election to be held Tuesday, May 5, 2015. Said meeting is open to the public and any concerned citizens may attend. The Charter Township of Van Buren will provide, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, reasonable accommodations with advance notice to the Clerk's Office, 734.699.8909.

Leon Wright
Township Clerk

Publish: 3-26-15
Posted: 3-11-15

Judge Green lets Tom White stay in rental house until end of lease

Although disbarred attorney Tom White is scheduled to be sentenced to prison for 20 felonies on March 27, the couple renting a house to him on Harris Road in Sumpter Township would like him out of their house now.

His landlady told 34th District Court Chief Judge Tina Brooks Green that White hasn't paid his rent, but Green is allowing him to stay in his rental home until April 12 when his lease ends.

On March 19, Danny and Debra Bye went before Judge Green seeking a termination of tenancy.

Danny Bye told Judge Green that White hadn't paid the \$1,200 per month rent since Feb. 12 and he hadn't paid the water bill and has a dog in the house which is not included in the lease.

Debra Bye said White will be going to jail on March 27 and she wants White's two 20-year-old kids and two dogs out of there.

White told Judge Green he did not pay

the rent because he paid a \$1,700 security deposit and he plans to be out of there by April 12, using the deposit for his last month's rent.

Debra Bye said in the lease it specifically states that you cannot use the security deposit for the last month's rent.

She said she is sure there will be damages to their newly refinished floors from White's two dogs in the house. She said the lease also states that no dogs are allowed in the house. They allowed him to have one, a Great Dane, but then he brought in another dog.

Judge Green said she could issue a judgment for possession for April 12, but if the Byes dispute that date it can go to court for a hearing.

Judge Green also said she was not interested in White's "personal business."

Danny Bye requested a hearing and Judge Green scheduled the hearing for 1 p.m. on March 30. If White or his representative does not show up, it goes to a default judgment for the Byes.

Debra Bye said they paid \$45 for the March 19 court hearing, plus \$35 to serve White. And, her husband took a day off work and will have to do it again on March 30.



City of Belleville Public Notice



CITY OF BELLEVILLE NOTICE OF CLOSE OF REGISTRATION FOR SPECIAL ELECTION

**TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF BELLEVILLE,
WAYNE COUNTY, STATE OF MICHIGAN:**

Notice is hereby given that Monday, April 6, 2015 is the last day to register to vote or change your address for the above stated election.

If you are not currently registered to vote or have changed your address in the City you may do so at the following locations and times listed in this notice.

Qualified electors may also change their address in the following manners:

In Person:

At the City Hall Clerk's office, or at the office of any County Clerk during normal business hours.

At any Secretary of State Branch office located throughout the State during normal business hours.

At the specified agency for clients receiving services through the Family Independence Agency, the Department of Community Health, Michigan Jobs Commission and some office of the Commission for the Blind.

At the military recruitment offices for persons enlisting in the armed forces.

By Mail:

By obtaining and completing a Mail Voter Registration Application and forwarding to the Clerk's office by the close of registration deadline. Mail voter registration applications may be obtained by contacting:

Lisa Long, City Clerk
(734) 697-9323 ext. 7010
6 Main Street
Belleville, MI 48111

Note: A person who registers to vote by mail is required to vote in person unless they have previously voted in person in the City/Township where they live or are at least 60 years of age or are handicapped.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION:

1. Applicant is at least 18 Years of age.
2. Resident of Belleville for at least 30 days.
3. Citizen of the United States.

The May 5, 2015 Special Election will be conducted in all voting precincts of the City of Belleville, for the purpose of voting on the following proposal;

PROPOSAL 15-1

A proposal to amend the State Constitution to increase the sales/use tax from 6% to 7% to replace and supplement reduced revenue to the School Aid Fund and local units of government caused by the elimination of the sales/use tax on gasoline and diesel fuel for vehicles operating on public roads, and to give effect to laws that provide additional money for roads and other transportation purposes by increasing the gas tax and vehicle registration fees.

The proposed constitutional amendment would:

- Eliminate sales/use taxes on gasoline/diesel fuel for vehicles on public roads.
- Increase portion of use tax dedicated to School Aid Fund (SAF).
- Expand use of SAF to community colleges and career/technical education, and prohibit use for 4-year colleges/universities.
- Give effect to laws, including those that:
 - Increase sales/use tax to 7%, as authorized by constitutional amendment.
 - Increase gasoline/diesel fuel tax and adjust annually for inflation, increase vehicle registration fees, and dedicate revenue for roads and other transportation purposes.
 - Expand competitive bidding and warranties for road projects.

- Increase earned income tax credit.

Should this proposal be adopted?

VAN BUREN PUBLIC SCHOOLS MILLAGE PROPOSAL BUILDING AND SITE SINKING FUND TAX LEVY

Shall Van Buren Public Schools, Counties of Wayne and Washtenaw, State of Michigan, create a sinking fund for the purpose of construction or repair of school buildings and the improvement and development of sites and for any other purpose which may be authorized by law, and be authorized to levy not to exceed 1.13 mills (\$1.13 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a period of seven (7) years, 2016 to 2022 inclusive? This levy would renew the sinking fund levy previously authorized by the voters in 2008 for an additional seven (7) years. It is estimated that the revenue the school district will collect if the millage is approved and levied in the 2016 calendar year shall be approximately \$1,715,961 from the local taxes authorized in this proposal. A portion of the revenue collected may be subject to capture by the Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority.

YES
NO

APPLICATIONS FOR ABSENTEE VOTER BALLOTS are available at the City Clerk's office, 6 Main Street, Belleville, MI 48111. Deadline for filing an application to receive an Absentee Ballot for the May 5, 2015 Special Election is Saturday, May 2, 2015 from 11:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. at the City Clerk's office.

Lisa Long,
City Clerk

Publish: March 26, 2015

For Classified Advertising, Display Advertising or News Tips
One call does it all: 734-699-9020 - The Independent



City of Belleville Public Notice



City of Belleville NOTICE OF AMENDED STATEMENT 2013 Community Development Block Grants



Following a public hearing on March 16, 2015 the City Council reprogrammed part of the 2013 CDBG funds which were not needed to complete Barrier Free Improvements project, to fund an ADA accessible Playscape in Village Park as follows:

1. Planning & Administration

Location Various City facilities
Activity: Planning

Project	Original	Change	Final
Planning	\$ 2,614.	- 2,614.	\$ -0-
Administration	\$ 2,614.	- 2,614.	\$ -0-

2. Village Park ADA Accessible Playscape

Location. city-wide
Activity: ADA Modification

Project	Original	Change	Final
ADA Playscape	\$ 0	\$+ 5,228.	\$ 5,228.
Village Park			

Lisa Long
City Clerk

PUBLISH: March 26, 2015

Minding Your Business with Bob Mytych



An **Autism Fundraiser** is taking place this Saturday, March 28, beginning at 9 a.m. at Belleville High School Gymnasium. Participants can take part in a 5k/run walk. Proceeds go to Van Buren Schools, Burger School for Autism, and Webster Elementary. Registration gets underway at 9 a.m. for the 5k run/walk. Baked goods and bottled water will be available for purchase. There will be basket raffles too. Call (734) 636-4909.

Sumpter Township Parks & Recreation will be holding a free Easter Egg Hunt this Saturday, March 28, beginning at noon at **Graham Park**. The Easter Bunny will be making an appearance, too.

The **Third Annual St. Vincent DePaul Charity Basketball Game** also is being held this **Saturday, March 28**, at 7 p.m. at the BHS Gym. Doors open at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$10 per person and free for kids 10 and under. Teams are made up of a Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren Police team against a Fire team from those departments. There will be door prizes, a Chinese Auction, and raffles for a 50" TV, RCA tablet, bikes, Razor-sparks, American Doll, sports equipment, 50/50 raffles, an Easter egg hunt, and more. Food and drinks will be available.

Perspective Eyecare on Belleville Road is offering a spring special. For a limited time choose from a pair of Polaroid sunglasses with single vision plastic polarized lenses for just \$259, or take \$50 off any pair of prescription sunglasses. Offer expires 4/30/15. Call for details. (734) 699-1010

The **Belleville Cougars** are holding **Open Registration for Football and Cheer** for the 2015 season. Walk-in registrations are being accepted on Saturday, March 28, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the **Wayne County Community College Western Campus** on Haggerty Road. A second registration day will take place on Saturday, April 25, also from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Registration forms can be downloaded at the league's website at www.bellevillecougars.com.

KellyCare of Belleville are professional home care providers offering loving care when you're not there, such as companionship, transportation, showers, meals, 24-hour care, and other activities. Call Care Manager **Tammy Kelley** at (313) 600-2026, or **Randy Kelley** at (313) 729-5378.

A **Children's Sewing Workshop** is being held this Saturday, March 28, at the **Belleville Area Museum**. Workshop times are noon, 1 p.m., 2 p.m., and 3 p.m. The cost is \$1 per child and pre-registration is

recommended. The classes are geared for children ages 7-12 years old. The classes coincide with the month-long quilt show going on at the museum. Call (734) 697-1944.

Do you have a business item you would like to see in this column? Call Bob Mytych at (734) 699-9020. There is no cost to be in this column.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN BOARD MEETING MINUTES MARCH 17, 2015

Supervisor Combs called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room. Present: Supervisor Combs, Clerk Wright, Treasurer Budd, Trustee Hart, Trustee Jahr, Trustee McClanahan and Trustee Miller. Others in attendance: Secretary Sumpter, Planning Director Knowles, DPW Director Taylor, IT Director Steve Rankin and an audience of seventeen (17).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Budd moved, Hart seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: Hart moved, Miller seconded to approve the Consent Agenda. [Regular Board Meeting Minutes of March 3, 2015; Work Study Session Minutes of March 2, 2015; Closed Session Minutes of March 2, 2015; Prepaid List of March 6, 2015; Prepaid List of March 12, 2015; Voucher List of March 17, 2015; Approval of the agreement between The County of Wayne and Van Buren Township for improvements to Quirk Park]. Motion Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING: None

CORRESPONDENCE: The Senior Alliance-Aimee Page presented on Services for the Township Fiscal Year 2014; Clerk Wright gave a presentation on the May 5, 2015 Special Election Public Service Announcement (PSA) to educate Township residents on the Ballot issues and to showcase Cable Director McCracken along with her staff Nicole Bleifield and Ron Carnacchi. The PSA will air on VBT 12, U-Verse, and the Clerk's Face Book page on the Township website.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Resident comments included: a request for an additional public comment section on the Board Meeting Agenda; that the Board is not considering the audience when asking to comment on the agenda before the items are presented. Supervisor Combs and Clerk Wright commented that Van Buren Township Citizens have access to the Agenda prior to the meetings; that an open door policy is always available for questions so proper comment can be discussed during the Board Meeting under Public Comment.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Jahr moved, McClanahan seconded to consider approval of the first reading of Ordinance 03-17-15 to Amend the Township Zoning Ordinance rezoning approximately 1.99 acres of land (Parcels V125-83-018-02-0134-006, -007, -008, -009 and -010) located on the northeast corner of Michigan Avenue and Denton Road from C (Local Business) to C-1 (General Business); Motion Carried

2. Clerk Wright moved, Hart seconded to consider approval of the request for special land use approval by Bellevue Development, LLC for the establishment of a Drive-Through Restaurant at 10705 Belleville Road; Motion

Upcoming Meetings

• Thursday, April 2 – Van Buren Township Board of Trustees' open meeting at 4 p.m. to discuss with the public Visteon bonds and what the township is going to do about it.

• Monday, April 6 – Van Buren Township work/study session, 4 p.m. Also, Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.

Birthdays

March 3 – Rick Rossi, Marie Rossi

March 17 – Melissa Rossi

March 24 – Donna Sienko

March 25 – David Sanders

March 30 – Derek Johnson

March 31 – Mary Strobe, Jennifer Winter

April 1 – Dan Martin, Sharon Waring, Virg Stolz

April 2 – Elizabeth Hall

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

Carried

3. McClanahan moved, Jahr seconded to consider approval of Resolution 2015-06 the proposed Maintenance Agreement on the Downriver Sewage Disposal System; Motion Carried

4. Budd Moved, Hart seconded to consider approval of the purchase of BS&A Software to replace the remaining Springbrook Software Modules of Finance, Cash Receipt's, and Utility Billing; Motion Carried

REPORTS: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Supervisor Combs announced the Van Buren Township Hall is hosting the Hoppin Hullabaloo & Magic Show Saturday March 28, 2015. The Hullabaloo starts at 1p.m and Magic Show 3p.m.; Van Buren Township Parks and Recreation Presents Frog Night Friday, April 17, 2015 at 6p.m. - 8p.m. A \$2 per person pre-registration is required; Yard Waste Pick-Up begins April 5, 2015 and will run through the week ending November 28, 2015; Trustee Miller announced the 3rd Annual St. Vincent DePaul Charity basketball Game between Van Buren, Belleville, and Sumpter's Police and Fire Departments on Saturday March 28, 2015 at Belleville High School Gym. Doors open at 6 p.m. game starts at 7 p.m.; Clerk Wright announced absentee ballot applications for the May 5, 2015 Special Election were mailed out to voters on the permanent Absentee application list on March 2, 2015; The Township Administrative office will be closed Friday April 3, 2015 in observance of Good Friday; The Department of Public Works will be conducting the annual spring cleaning for the Townships Cemeteries on March 23, 2015 through April 2, 2015, all receptacles placed on the graves if not discarded will be removed by March 20, 2015.

AUDIENCE (Non-Agenda Items): Resident stated that item #5 under new business to consider approval of the purchase of BS&A Software is a topic that the audience should have had a chance to comment on prior to the Board Vote on approving the purchase; that the Landfill will start to accept blight from the City of Detroit causing the life expectancy to gear down faster. Supervisor Combs asked how the information was received as it is not correct. Trustee Hart reassured the resident that he has researched the information and will stay on top of the issue to ensure compliance.

Resident stated that they would like to see more ordinances created and enforced to prevent vehicle blight in the Haggerty Subdivision; that they have contacted Lt. Bazy and informed him of the issues. Resident also gave the Board pictures of the problems. Supervisor Combs stated that she will be diligent in getting the problem resolved.

Resident stated that they are pleased to see a cohesive board; that the report in the Independent

labeled "7th Annual Report to Taxpayers" opened his eyes to the blended rate policy of the Township; that they were disappointed with the leadership, not so much as for the wages but for the mismanagement of employee's welfare. He stated that working those hours take away from family time and other qualified candidates could do the job; that other options should be discussed regarding the possible elimination of blended rate officers.

Audience member spoke about the ways to help Van Buren Township move forward in the process of allowing Medicinal Marijuana Dispensaries and Grow Facilities set up and offered a tour of their facilities in the City of Ypsilanti to the Board.

Audience member offered services from his organization to help facilitate the caregivers and dispensary processes; that they would like to see an upcoming agenda on Commercial light industrial buildings for Medicinal Marijuana; Supervisor Combs stated that she really appreciates the offer and would like to gain insight on the subject.

Audience member wants the Board to keep an open mind on the Medical Marijuana dispensaries and grow facilities as she is also looking for a building to house her Sweet Dreams business; that since Van Buren Township prides itself on being there for the aging community she informed the Board that Senior Citizens are her primary clientele. Trustee Miller stated she looks forward to delving into the topic and has seen documentaries on the benefits.

Director Knowles stated that the topic of Medical Marijuana is the clear indicator on the importance of getting this process in effect for the Township; Clerk Wright stated that the Township respects the constituents voice on this matter and he too is looking to move forward.

Audience member stated he is a journalist and was very proud to see so many on the Board in agreement to start the process of Medical Marijuana businesses within the Township; that since surrounding communities have already implemented ordinances and cannabis laws, Van Buren Ordinances can use their format for Ordinances; that laws and ordinance can also be found on his site at thecompassionchronicles.com.

ADJOURNMENT: Hart moved, Miller seconded to adjourn at 8:37 p.m. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Leon Wright, Township Clerk
Linda H. Combs, Township Supervisor
Publish: March 26, 2015

VBT approves \$157,516 in BS&A Software to replace Springbrook

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

The Van Buren Township Board of Trustees approved the recommendation of IT Department Director Steve Rankin to replace the remaining Springbrook Software used by the clerk, treasurer and water and sewer departments with BS&A Software at a cost of \$157,516.

This was at the regular board meeting on March 17.

Supervisor Linda Combs said the financing will be covered by the water department and general fund. A big Michigan Municipal Risk Management Association refund is expected and will be set aside to probably cover the whole cost, she said.

VBT has used Springbrook since 2003 for performing finance, utility billing, and cash receipts related duties. At the time of the purchase in 2003, BS&A did not have those modules developed, Rankin said.

There have been problems with Springbrook for years and BS&A performed an on-site demonstration for the three departments on March 4 of these modules and all the departments agreed this would be a big improvement to make their jobs more efficient.

In addition, this would allow the township to use one vendor/one system for its main business software applications and would streamline service / support / dispute

issues, Rankin said.

It is expected to take through October / November to migrate completely to BS&A and so Rankin said he will look into seeing if Springbrook's annual maintenance cost of \$19,079, due in June, can be prorated for the months of actual use remaining.

BS&A is located in Bath, MI, (near Okemos) while Springbrook is in Washington state and often when VBT employees are having trouble with the software Springbrook employees are still sleeping with a three-hour time difference.

Trustee Jeff Jahr noted that the board did not have a study session on this move, although it was discussed during the budget sessions last year.

"It's a good move, we've got to go forward, but we have to keep our eye on the budget..." Trustee Jahr said. "But, \$150,000 is a lot of money ... The well is running dry ... We have to look at our expenditures."

Rankin said as far as the IT budget, he has cut money and, "I take pride in saving money. This issue? I can't crow about it. I treat it like it's my money and I know it's the taxpayers' money."

He said it's a long-term investment. VBT has spent 12.5 years with Springbrook and he expects VBT to be with BS&A that long or longer.

Treasurer Sharry Budd made the motion



During its March 2 work/study session, members of the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees use their new Microsoft tablets, purchased to save paper. From left are Treasurer Sharry Budd, Supervisor Linda Combs, Clerk Leon Wright, and Trustees Brenda McClanahan and Reggie Miller.

to approve the switch to BS&A, adding, "This is something I've wanted for a long time."

Also at the March 17 VBT meeting, the township board:

- Approved an agreement between Wayne County and VBT for improvements to Quirk Park. They will be putting in two dugouts at a total cost of \$18,322. Wayne County will pay \$10,000 from the county millage and Van Buren Civic Fund will pay \$8,322;

- Postponed considering the request by Elro Corporation to approve a five-year extension of the Planned Residential Development (PRD) agreement and final preliminary plat for the Bedford Cove subdivision to expire April 9, 2020 and to require a written report from the developer every two years. VBT Director of Planning and Economic Development Jack Knowles said Elro's attorney has some revisions and would like to wait until the April 7 meeting;

- Approved first reading of an ordinance to rezone five parcels of about 1.99 acres of land at the northeast corner of Michigan Avenue and Denton Road from C (Local Business) to C-1 (General Business);

- Approved special land use approval by Belleview Development LLC for the establishment of a drive-through restaurant at 10705 Belleville Road, site of the former Big Boy restaurant, with only one driveway. There will be three restaurants in the new building with the northernmost a drive-through;

- Approved the Maintenance Agreement on the Downriver Sewage Disposal System;

- Heard Aimee Page, RN, of The Senior Alliance give a report on the valuable services the Area Agency on Agency gives to the seniors of VBT;

- Heard Val Wasser of Haggerty Sub tell about the conditions around houses that are being flipped, with a woodchipper in front of a house for a year. People coming out who never owned a house before. Boats in the yards and travel trailers. He said if the township nipped the blight in the bud it would be helpful. Combs said this isn't the first complaint from Haggerty Sub and she will get Lt. Charles Bazy on it;

- Heard a resident compliment the board that is in place with everyone doing a great job. He said he is not so much about the money being paid to the blended rate officers, but, "Who wants to have a dad work 80 hours a week?" he asked... "One person should not be working all these hours... Forget the money ... He shouldn't be working that many hours... A lot of firemen are looking for jobs." Combs said her administration is looking at way to solve the problem;

- Heard from several medical marijuana provisionary center supporters, with Jamie Lowell inviting the board to visit his Compassion Center in Ypsilanti. He said they heard that VBT was considering a moratorium to put an ordinance together and they wanted to help. Martin Yono of Wixom asked the board to form a program for caregivers to grow medical marijuana. He said he owns a chain of hardware stores and a Kelly Services for medical marijuana. He asked about a building on Martz Road behind the gas station on Rawsonville. A caregiver wants to go in there and grow medical marijuana to take to compassion centers. Tonya Mora said she is starting a company called Sweet Dreams which mixes organic oils with marijuana oil. She is looking for a building so she can open. She said she was a corrections officer for 14 years and her brother is a MSP trooper;

- Heard Director Knowles say he thought the moratorium on medical marijuana provisionary centers would be on the agenda that evening, but, "I didn't plant these people in the audience. It is a small part of what I'm experiencing each week," Knowles said; and

- Heard Rick Thompson, who said he was a journalist, say a lot of communities have gone before them so VBT can steal shamelessly from their ordinances. He said seniors are a very big number of marijuana users.

"If a black cat crosses your path, it signifies that the animal is going somewhere."

— Groucho Marx

City of Belleville Public Notice

City of Belleville NOTICE OF AMENDED STATEMENT 2012 Community Development Block Grants



Following a public hearing on March 16, 2015 the City Council reprogrammed part of the 2012 CDBG funds which were not needed to complete Barrier Free Improvements project, to fund an ADA accessible Playscape in Village Park as follows.

1 Barrier Free Improvements

Location Various City facilities

Activity: ADA evaluation & modifications

Project	Original	Change	Final
Administration	\$ 4,800	- 2,275	\$ -0-

2. Village Park ADA Accessible Playscape

Location city-wide

Activity: ADA Modification

Project	Original	Change	Final
ADA Playscape Village Park	\$ 0	+\$2,775.	\$ 2,775.

Lisa Long
City Clerk

PUBLISH: March 26, 2015

Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

The following are selected calls for VBT Police.

Sunday, March 15:
0302 – property damage accident, Beck/Ecorse
1114 – retail fraud, Rawsonville Rd.
1306 – suspicious situation, Sumpter Rd.
1426 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1635 – shots fired, Andover Farms
1654 – juvenile complaint, E. Archwood Dr.
1840 – juvenile complaint, Ash Dr.
1900 – fraud, Rawsonville
1912 – private property accident, Country Ln.
2144 – retail fraud, Belleville
2243 – agency assist, Belleville Rd.

Monday, March 16:
0101 – vehicle repossession, Daisy
0205 – agency assist, Belleville Rd./S. I-94 Service
0607 – property damage accident, Ecorse/NB I-275
0717 – malicious destruction of property, Belleville Rd.
1002 – animal complaint, Jackson Ln.
1115 – larceny, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1120 – hospice, E. Huron River Dr.
1246 – intimidation threat, Denton Rd.
1407 – hospice, Anna Dr.
1410 – suspicious person, W. Huron River Dr. / Rawsonville Rd.
1610 – missing person, Country Walk Blvd.
1705 – noise complaint, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1755 – animal complaint, Van Born
1844 – juvenile complaint, Ash Dr.
1849 – retail fraud, Walmart
1909 – suspicious person, Harmony Ln. / S. I-94 Service Dr.
1914 – fight, Denton Rd.
2046 – mental, Kirkridge Park Dr.
2102 – property damage accident, Savage Rd./Wildbrook Dr.
2127 – shots fired, Haggerty Rd.
2141 – suspicious vehicle, Haggerty School
2158 – personal injury accident, Belleville Rd. / S. I-94 Service Dr.
2356 – assault & battery, Jackson St.

Tuesday, March 17:
0241 – assault & battery, Rogers Ave.
0742 – property damage accident, Ecorse Rd. / Belleville Rd.
1312 – assault & battery, Vernon St.
1317 – malicious destruction of property, Tompkins St.
1405 – assault & battery, Truman
1438 – disturbance, McBride Ave./Beck Rd.
1452 – fraud, Kirkridge Park Dr.
1844 – malicious destruction of property, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1846 – trespassing, Belleville Rd.
2012 – personal injury accident, Belleville/Robson
2034 – juvenile complaint, Belleville

Wednesday, March 18:
0247 – suspicious situation, N. Bellridge Dr.
0352 – noise complaint, Lake Villa Dr.
0652 – unauthorized driving away of auto, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0931 – fraud, Melody Ln.
1215 – agency assist, W. Columbia Ave.
1437 – property damage accident, Belleville/Tyler
1529 – dumping complaint, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1603 – malicious destruction of property, N. Bellridge Dr.
1618 – suspicious person, Robbe Rd.
1704 – assist citizen, Belleville
1722 – suspicious person, Buchanan St.
1848 – fraud, Westlake
1848 – private property accident, Sunrise Ln.
1937 – assist citizen, Parkwood Dr.
2333 – property damage accident, Denton Rd.
2355 – property damage accident, Lohr Rd.

Thursday, March 19:
0757 – juvenile complaint, Hamilton St.
0903 – larceny, Quirk Rd.
1534 – private property accident, Outer Dr./Old Michigan Ave.
1541 – traffic hazard, Belleville/Quirk Rd.
1547 – missing person, Morton Taylor Rd.
1606 – fraud, Red Oak Dr.
2025 – personal injury accident, Belleville Rd. / Van Born Rd.
2038 – shots fired, Rawsonville Rd./Bog Rd.

2137 – property damage accident, E. Huron River Dr./Haggerty Rd.
2352 – suspicious vehicle, Belleville Rd.

Friday, March 20:
0107 – narcotics crime, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1409 – disturbance, Belleville Rd.
1424 – suicide or attempt, WB I-94/rest area
1522 – missing person, Quirk Rd.
1528 – property damage accident, Hannan/S. I-94 Service Dr.
1651 – property damage accident, Tyler Rd. / Lancaster Dr.
1811 – mental, Elwell Rd.
1844 – holdup alarm, Belleville Rd.
1848 – agency assist, Ash Dr.
1856 – larceny, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1923 – larceny, Kirkridge
2133 – ATV/ORV complaint, Crossroads
2152 – juvenile complaint, Ash Dr.
2213 – disorderly conduct, Village Green Ln.
2242 – malicious destruction of property, S. I-94 Service Dr.

Saturday, March 21:
0008 – missing person, Arlene Ln.
0017 – disturbance, N. Ponderosa Trl.
0154 – assault & battery, Lake Villa Dr.
0205 – suspicious situation, Lake Villa Dr. / Belleville Rd.
1326 – property damage accident, Denton Rd. / Ecorse Rd.
1621 – fraud, Purple Sage
1753 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1828 – disorderly conduct, Belleville Rd.
2156 – assault & battery, Oak Ln.

Also on this week’s log are 180 traffic stops, 59 of which were on the I-94 and I-275 freeways.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, March 15:
0033 – agency assist, E. Schooner
0136 – suspicious vehicle, Second St.
1233 – information, W. Columbia Ave.
1648 – disturbance, W. Columbia Ave.
1655 – vehicle lockout, Victory Park
1712 – animal complaint, Greylock
1836 – traffic complaint, E. Huron River Dr. / Bay Pointe
1855 – welfare check, Clarence St.
1857 – malicious destruction of property, Church St.

2245 – agency assist, Sumpter

Monday, March 16:
0153 – sexual assault, Main St.
0300 – civil matter, Church St.
1135 – welfare check, Henry St.
1208 – assist fire dept., N. Liberty St.
1356 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
1513 – traffic complaint, Carmell St.
1626 – assist citizen, Sumpter Rd.
1828 – juvenile complaint, Aberdeen Ct.
1850 – welfare check, Loza Ln.
1904 – juvenile complaint, Sumpter Rd.
2118 – trespassing, Horizon Park

Tuesday, March 17:
0252 – breaking & entering, Sumpter
0548 – vehicle lockout, Church St.
0927 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
0954 – warrant arrest, Bemis
1356 – civil matter, N. Edgemont Ave.
1724 – vehicle lockout, W. Columbia Ave.
1847 – miscellaneous complaint, Main St.
2003 – civil matter, Main St.
2130 – assault & battery, Lakeview
2130 – E-911 hang up, Sumpter

Wednesday, March 18:
0002 – suspicious situation, Main St. / N. Liberty
0710 – traffic complaint, South St.
1215 – fight, W. Columbia Ave.
1627 – sexual assault, Main St.
1840 – assist citizen, W. Columbia Ave.
1923 – suspicious situation, Belle Villa Blvd.
2349 – suspicious situation, W. Columbia Ave.

Thursday, March 19:
1017 – information, Main St.
1212 – private property accident, W. Columbia
1212 – disorderly conduct, W. Columbia Ave.
1213 – disorderly conduct, W. Columbia Ave.
1213 – information, Main St.

1436 – background investigation, Main St.
1652 – information, Main St.
2042 – suspicious vehicle, S. Edgemont Ave. / E. Huron River Dr.

Friday, March 20:
0918 – assist fire dept., Sumpter Rd.
1347 – suspicious person, W. Columbia Ave.
1849 – welfare check, Potter
2300 – family trouble, N. Aberdeen Ct.

Saturday, March 21:
0117 – trespassing, Belle Villa Blvd.
1154 – E-911 hang up/investigation, Belle Villa Blvd.
1344 – assist fire dept., Henry St.
1516 – information, 5 Points
1812 – property damage accident, Main/Denton
1905 – suspicious person, Main St./Third St.
2055 – suspicious situation, E. Davis St.
2358 – all other traffic, Sumpter/Belle Villa

Also on this week’s log are 44 traffic stops.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, March 15:
1047 – fire dept. assist, 45000 bl. Judd Rd.
1445 – animal complaint, 17000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1457 – animal complaint, 24000 bl. Karr Rd.
1553 – civil dispute, 42000 bl. Bemis Rd.
1846 – property damage accident, Arkona / Sherwood
1921 – mental health commitment, 46000 bl. Harris Rd.

2048 – threats complaint, 50000 bl. Willis Rd.

Monday, March 16:
0334 – 911 hang up 24000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
0816 – malicious destruction of property, 45000 bl. Bemis Rd.
0918 – abandoned vehicle, 8100 bl. Rawsonville
0931 – family trouble, 46000 bl. Judd Rd.
1156 – fire dept. assist, 17000 bl. Savage Rd.
1544 – juvenile complaint, 48000 bl. Bemis Rd.
1630 – fraud complaint, 18000 bl. Savage Rd.
1700 – property damage accident, Willis/Karr
1905 – shots fired, 26000 bl. Sherwood Rd.

Tuesday, March 17:
0002 – civil dispute, 25000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0845 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0921 – fire dept. assist, 49000 bl. Willis Rd.
1024 – suspicious vehicle, Lohr/Bemis
1146 – well-being check, Greenmeadow
1148 – juvenile complaint, Carriage Ln.
1254 – larceny, 46000 bl. Judd Rd.
1412 – assist other agency, 47000 bl. Arkona Rd.
1432 – property damage accident, Willow / Martinsville
1502 – suspicious incident, Brookview
1544 – family trouble, 41000 bl. Willow Rd.
1623 – 911 hang up, 44000 bl. Willow Rd.
1628 – threats complaint, Timberlane
1759 – fire dept. assist, 44000 bl. Willow Rd.
1849 – well-being check, 43000 bl. Judd Rd.
1953 – warrant pick up, out of township

Wednesday, March 18:
0218 – traffic hazard, 50000 bl. Bemis Rd.
0651 – alarm, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1059 – animal complaint, 25000 bl. Clark Rd.
1142 – fire dept. assist, 27000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1326 – citizen assist, 45000 bl. Willis Rd.
1420 – well-being check, Rawsonville/Bemis
1533 – alarm, 22000 bl. Karr Rd.
1737 – operating while intoxicated arrest, New Mexico
1827 – shots fired, 17000 bl. Martha Ln.
2009 – suspicious vehicle, 45000 bl. Judd Rd.
2358 – family trouble, 20000 bl. Sherwood Rd.

Thursday, March 19:
0749 – dumping complaint, Haggerty/Arkona
1023 – ordinance violation, 39000 bl. Judd Rd.
1235 – ordinance violation, 45000 bl. Willis Rd.
1300 – property damage accident, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1410 – suspicious incident, Maine
1753 – alarm, 8100 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
2038 – civil dispute, 48000 bl. Willis Rd.

Friday, March 20:
0057 – felonious assault, Rustic Ln.
0317 – warrant pick up, Greenmeadow
0740 – suspicious person, 49000 bl. Wear Rd.
0848 – 911 hang up, 23000 bl. Elwell Rd.

0939 – fraud complaint, 20000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
0947 – civil dispute, 40000 bl. Harris Rd.
1237 – 911 hang up, 40000 bl. Judd Rd.
1248 – civil dispute, 24000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1452 – citizen assist, Stonecrest
1802 – animal complaint, 19000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
1846 – operating while intoxicated arrest, Ash Dr.
1848 – malicious destruction of property, 29000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1950 – missing person report, 48000 bl. Bemis Rd.
2106 – disorderly person, Wayside
2207 – ordinance violation, 43000 bl. Judd Rd.

Saturday, March 21:
0823 – operating while intoxicated arrest, 41000 bl. Harris Rd.
0932 – death investigation, 19000 bl. Crandell Ct.
1239 – warrant pick up, out of township
1405 – warrant pick up, out of township
1417 – suspicious incident, Edgewood
1615 – identity theft report, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1832 – fire dept. assist, 41000 bl. Judd Rd.
1902 – warrant pick up, 44000 bl. Bemis Rd.
2306 – alarm, 17000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2333 – assist other agency, 44000 bl. Paris Dr.

Also on this week’s log are 10 follow-up investigations, 35 miscellaneous details, 124 patrol checks, and 89 traffic stops.

Sumpter Police seek information in stabbing of mobile park resident

On March 20 at about 1 a.m., a 20-year-old African-American male resident of Rustic Lane North, in the Rawsonville Woods mobile home park, was walking home inside the park when he was attacked by two unknown males and stabbed numerous times about his torso and groin area.

He was transported by ambulance to St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Ann Arbor, with life-threatening injuries, including collapsed lungs and damage to his carotid (neck) and femoral (groin) arteries. He underwent emergency surgery and is now recovering in serious, but stable condition.

Anyone with information about this incident is asked to contact Sumpter Township Police Detective John Toth at (734) 461-4833, ext. 305.

To leave an anonymous tip, contact Crime Stoppers at the following link: <https://www.tipsubmit.com/WebTips.aspx?AgencyID=430>

Artaffair on Main seeking artists to sell their pieces July 25-26

The Belleville Area Council for the Arts announces that it is accepting applications for the fifth-annual Artaffair on Main, to be held on Main Street in downtown Belleville July 25-26.

The arts council is looking for artists who have current works of quality and want to sell their items. Several categories, including fine arts and handcrafted art of original design and fine quality, will be included in the Show. All booths are 10’ x 10’ corner booths and there is \$1,000 in Best in Show awards.

Applications and additional information is available at artaffaironmain.org or by contacting the show manager at showmanager@artaffaironmain.org.

More Letters

Free clinic, fund raiser coming up for VBCS

To the Editor and Soccer Members:

Thank you to everyone who attended our Meet the Coach event this past Saturday at the Wayne County Community College. I would like to thank Pryde Athletics for coming out and working with both the players and the coaches. I also want to thank the WCCC for the venue and for all of their support! It was a wonderful event and a great success!

This Friday, March 27, we will be having a FREE players clinic at Pryde Athletics. Please come and join this FREE clinic from 5-6 p.m. make sure to have your player wear tennis shoes and bring a soccer ball with them as well. We hope to see you there.

Please join our Van Buren Community Soccer Association at Lodge Lanes in

Belleville for our bowling fund raiser this Saturday, March 28, from 2-5 p.m. Tickets are \$20 per adult and \$15 per child 12 and under. Tickets will be sold at Pryde Athletics this Thursday, March 26, from 6-7 p.m. Tickets can also be purchased at the door and will be \$25 per adult and \$20 per child, so get them before. We will have raffles, donation baskets, bowling, pizza and fun for the whole family. What a great way to bring our community together!

We would like to thank Atchinson Ford, Pryde Athletics, Twisted Rooster, Egan's, and all our teams and families who have donated baskets to our fund raiser so far. If you would like to donate a basket to help market your business, please email us at vanburensoccerbelleville@yahoo.com.

A few reminders:

- Spring Season is scheduled to start April 18. If you have not heard from your coach for the Spring 2015, please contact us right away to get your coach in contact with you.

- Saturday, May 30, from 10 a.m. to midnight is Relay for Life. Email us if

you are interested in being a part of this amazing cause.

Please let us know if you have questions or suggestions to share as we are always welcome to new ideas.

If you see a fellow VBCS player, family, or member around, just say HELLO.

Always remember to check us out on Facebook, as well.

Soccer Rules! Thanks!

Angie McCluskey

President Van Buren Community Soccer
And All Board Members

VBT Trustee Miller donates funds to BACA

To the Editor:

As part of her election platform during her 2012 run for Van Buren Township Trustee, Regina (Reggie) Miller pledged to give back to the community by donating her salary to a number of local community organizations.

The Belleville Area Council for the Arts was among the organizations that Trustee Miller pledged to help. Trustee Miller did indeed donate one-quarter of her salary to BACA for the last two years and she continues to fulfill her pledge into this third year of her tenure as BACA has recently received another generous donation from Trustee Miller.

The board and membership of the Belleville Area Council for the Arts expresses their sincere gratitude for Trustee Miller's generosity.

Kim Tindall, Corresponding Secretary
Belleville Area Council for the Arts

Eagle Scout



Ryan Youmans of Van Buren Township was presented with his Eagle Scout award and also an Eagle Bronze Palm on March 17 at Trinity Episcopal Church. Shown with Ryan is his father Charles Youmans. Ryan is a member of Boy Scout Troop 231 and has earned 47 merit badges. He is a junior at Belleville High School's New Tech program and recently won \$500 in the Soup Project with his plan to bring canoeing to Belleville Lake on Oct. 3. He is in the concert and marching bands at BHS and also on the varsity swim team. Ryan is an NRA Instructor in both shotgun and rifle and has worked his way up to Expert. He aspires to be a Wildlife Conservation Officer or pursue a career in Law Enforcement.

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Please join us for service
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Palm Sunday	<i>March 29th</i>	9:00am/11:00am
Maundy Thursday	<i>April 2nd</i>	7:00pm
Good Friday	<i>April 3rd</i>	7:00pm
Easter Sunday	<i>April 5th</i>	9:00am 11:00am Chapel & Egg Hunt

*He is not here;
he has
Risen!*

Luke 24:6



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132 N LIBERTY, BELLEVILLE
MULTI MILLION DOLLAR VIEWS Updated 3 Bedroom Belleville Lake Home. Lakefront views from doorwalls & master bedroom, updated kitchen, newer roof, walkout deck from large family room w fireplace. New flooring, paint walkout basement \$269,900.



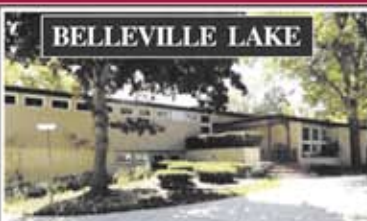
19350 SUMPTER RD, SUMPTER TWP
GREAT LOCATION with little competition. 4,100+ square foot set up for a bar/restaurant or pizzeria. Most equipment could be included. Looks great and shows even better. Plenty of parking on 2+ acres. A Best Buy investment property at only \$387,000



OPEN SUNDAY MARCH 29 1-3
13001 LAKEVIEW, VAN BUREN
ON THE LEADING EDGE OF GREAT LAKE LIVING. Experience the Extraordinary in this completely remodeled (2005) 3 Bedroom, 3 Bath Home with Views of Belleville Lake & Van Buren Park. Featuring Hardwood floors, Premium Kitchen, Fireplace, Vaulted Ceilings, Sky Lights, Jacuzzi and Bubble Tub, Wet Bar, Sunroom and Much More. Heated 2 1/2 Car Garage, Sprinkler System, Deck & Dock. \$475,000



991 E HURON RIVER DR, VAN BUREN
MULTIPLES OF VALUE ARE PRESENT IN This Larger 1,571 Sq Ft Custom Built 2 Bedroom, 2 Bath Home. Featuring Open Kitchen-Dining-Living Room, Gas Fireplace in Family Room, 90+ Furnace, Deck, Shed, 2 1/2 Car Attached Garage on .92 Acre Parcel. This is One Wins the 1 Love Clean Contest! \$159,900.



44233 HARMONY LANE, VAN BUREN
BELLEVILLE LAKE FRONT ESTATE. Indoor olympic pool & whirlpool, multiple fireplaces, skylights, large bath with bidet, family room with fireplace, 4 1/2 baths and 5 bedrooms. Many newer improvements, 350 ft lake frontage on 2+ acres with bouthouse and tennis court. This is a Castle to make one feel like Royalty. HUGE PRICE CHANGE - NOW \$599,000

VACANT LAND - BUILD YOUR DREAM
AUGUSTA TOWNSHIP
MCKEAN & SHERYL 11.96 ACRE \$89,500
VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP
14435 HAGGERTY 1.42 ACRES \$24,900
BOG RD VAN BUREN .55 ACRES \$29,750
49809 BOG 2.74 ACRES \$49,500
5900 DELLOR 1.81 ACRES \$40,000
SUMPTER TOWNSHIP
49317 ARKONA 40.28 ACRES \$180,000
ELWELL 19.34 AC (WAS \$150,000) \$95,000
25817 SUMPTER RD .97 ACRES \$20,000
26960 SHERWOOD 2.5 ACRES \$30,000
VACANT SUMPTER 7.46 ACRES \$30,000
RAWSONVILLE 12 ACRES \$94,900
WEAR ROAD 10 ACRES \$49,900
ROMULUS
COGSWELL ROMULUS .71 ACRES \$35,000
BELLEVILLE
337 MAIN .32 ACRES 83X165 \$79,500



42435 N CUMBERLAND, VAN BUREN
A FAVORITE OF ALL Who See It! Outstanding three bedroom, Two and One Half Bath Brick Colonial. Open Family Room, Larger Master Bedroom & Premium Master Bath and Updated Kitchen. Expansive Living Room-Dining Area and Full Basement. An open rear yard finds a deep green lawn - Manicured Salon Style. Offering a Measureless Value. \$184,900



375 & 377 CHARLES, BELLEVILLE
GREAT INCOME PROPERTY In the City of Belleville. This duplex has a great rental history and is walking distance to Belleville Lake and the downtown. One unit has 2 bedrooms, one bath and 900 sq feet the other has 1 bedroom, 1 bath and 700 sq feet. Private entrances, privacy fence and large yard. Listed at \$124,900.



9019 COGSWELL, ROMULUS
WAKE UP TO EXCITEMENT EVERY MORNING in this 4,900 sf masterpiece. Only the finest of construction with 4 large bedrooms, 3 full and 2 half baths, 2 fireplaces, marble floors, 2 master bedrooms with Jacuzzis, finished basement, 2 bars, 3 car attached and 2 car detached garages. On 4 manicured acres. This home is one of the finest in style and quality. \$499,900.



500 HURON RIVER DR, BELLEVILLE
HIGHEST QUALITY! Brick Commercial building in the City of Belleville. Former florist, coffee house, and bakery with potential for immediate franchise opportunity. The quality, potential and design of this newer (2002) constructed building are beyond description. \$750,000 (or \$18.00 square ft - triple net lease)



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\$86/mo.*
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